United Nations A/60/PV.88

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Official Records

88th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 6 June 2006, 4 p.m.
New York

*President:* Mr. Eliasson ..... (Sweden)

*The meeting was called to order at 4.15 p.m.*

**Agenda item 7 (*continued*)**

**Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reopening of the consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 54**

**The President**: I would like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/60/871, which has been circulated under sub-item (c) of agenda item 54, "International migration and development".

Members will recall that the General Assembly concluded its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 54 at its 69th plenary meeting, on 23 December 2005. In order to enable the General Assembly to consider the report of the Secretary-General, it will be necessary to reopen the consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 54. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 54?

*It was so decided.*

**The President**: Members will recall that, at its 17th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2005, the General Assembly decided to allocate sub-item (c) of agenda item 54 to the Second Committee. In order for the General Assembly to proceed expeditiously with its consideration of the sub-item, may I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to consider sub-item (c) of agenda 54 directly in plenary meeting under heading B of the agenda, namely, "Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences"?

*It was so decided.*

**The President**: May I further take it that the Assembly agrees to proceed immediately to the consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 54?

*It was so decided.*

**Agenda item 54 (*continued*)**

**Globalization and interdependence**

**(c) International migration and development**

**Report of the Secretary-General (A/60/871)**

**The President**: Today the General Assembly will embark on a series of events in preparation for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which will take place on 14 and 15 September, at the beginning of the sixty-first session.

International migration is a global issue that affects us all. Today there are more than 191 million migrants in the world. International migration has an impact both on countries of destination and on countries of origin, in developing and developed countries alike. We can all learn from each other's

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experience and engage in a dialogue to widen our common understanding of the interrelationship between international migration and development.

At the 2005 World Summit, our heads of State or Government acknowledged the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, destination and transit. They recognized that international migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community.

They also welcomed the High-level Dialogue as an opportunity to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize their development benefits and minimize their negative impact. The path leading to the High-level Dialogue has not always been an easy one. The issue of international migration in relation to development began to gain visibility at the time of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo.

One year later, the Second Committee of the General Assembly considered the first report on international migration and development (E/1995/69). Furthermore, most of the conferences and summits that followed the Cairo Conference devoted attention to international migration and development.

As a result, the United Nations has already a fairly comprehensive set of principles, objectives and recommendations in regard to international migration. In addition, the Global Commission on International Migration issued a report just last year, and also presented a set of principles and recommendations, as members know. Shortly, I will invite the Secretary-General to introduce his report entitled "International migration and development", which will provide a comprehensive overview of studies on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development as well as highlight the developmental potential of migration.

Before doing so, I would like to remind members of a number of upcoming General Assembly events in preparation for the High-level Dialogue, so that they may note them in their calendars. On Thursday, 8 June, the first of two panel discussions on international migration and development will take place here in New York. In that regard, I wish to refer to my letter of 31 May; another letter with further details will be sent from my Office later this afternoon. The second panel discussion will take place in Geneva on 4 July. On 12 July there will be an informal interactive hearing with representatives from non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, here in New York. I encourage members to actively and constructively participate in those events, which will be an important contribution to the successful organization and outcome of the High-level Dialogue in September.

I now warmly welcome the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, and invite him to introduce his report.

**The Secretary-General**: In preparation for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which the General Assembly is to hold on 14 and 15 September 2006, I have the honour to submit the report (A/60/871) that the Assembly requested from me in resolution 59/241, which was reiterated by resolution 60/227.

The report offers a comprehensive review of recent trends in international migration, focusing particularly on the impact that it has both on countries of destination and on countries of origin. It draws on many previous studies, including the very valuable one undertaken by the Global Commission on International Migration, which presented its report and recommendations to me last year.

In the report before the Assembly today, I focus on the aspects of international migration that are most relevant to development. The report makes a strong case that international migration, supported by the right policies, can be highly beneficial for the development both of the countries that migrants come from and of those in which they arrive. But it also stresses that those benefits are contingent on the rights of migrants themselves being respected and upheld. It shows that, contrary to some received opinion, migration involves women and men in almost equal numbers. It therefore considers the role of gender in international migration and the impact on gender-related issues.

Perhaps most important, the report explores new ways by which Governments are seeking to manage the flows and skills of people in order to make the greatest use of migration's development potential. It surveys existing intergovernmental cooperation in this field, including the normative framework, the various global

and regional initiatives that have been taken and the bilateral approaches that are being tried, such as agreements on the portability of pensions and health benefits. It points out that international cooperation is also crucial in the struggle to protect people against the odious crime of human trafficking.

Member States will of course draw their own conclusions from the facts set out in the report. But I have ventured, in the foreword to the report, to make some tentative suggestions, which I will summarize for the Assembly now.

First, I should like to congratulate the Assembly on its decision to hold a High-level Dialogue on this subject, preceded by high-level panels and a hearing with representatives of civil society. The report shows very clearly that we are in the midst of a new era of migration, and that international migration today is indeed a global phenomenon. Large numbers of people migrate in search of a better life, not only between neighbouring countries or within a region but to and from the uttermost ends of the Earth. If anyone harbours doubts on that point, a stroll through this city of New York should quickly put them right.

There can be very few countries that are not affected by international migration in one way or other. Policy-makers are increasingly recognizing its importance for development. Therefore, a global discussion on international migration and development could hardly be more timely. To ensure that its importance is fully appreciated at the highest level, Peter Sutherland — who, as the Assembly knows, was the founding Director-General of the World Trade Organization — has kindly agreed to serve as my Special Representative for Migration. He is already engaged in intensive consultations with Governments, and he will continue to urge them to bring their best ideas to the Dialogue in September.

My second point is that evidence of the benefits brought about by international migration is accumulating. It is no coincidence, and it should be no surprise, that many countries that not so long ago were primarily sources of migrants — for instance Ireland, several countries in southern Europe, the Republic of Korea and Chile — have developed spectacularly, and now boast thriving economies which make them attractive destinations for migrants. Benefits, both to countries of origin and to countries of destination, are highly relevant to development, since both categories include many developing countries. Indeed, some developing countries, such as Malaysia and Thailand, are at this moment making the transition from one category to the other.

Yet — and this is my third point — it would clearly be naive to pretend that all is for the best in the best of all migratory worlds. We are all too familiar with the abuses to which many migrants are subjected, whether in transit, where they fall prey to smugglers and traffickers, sometimes with fatal consequences, or in the countries where they settle, where they are often exposed to exploitation by unprincipled employers, as well as to xenophobic reactions from parts of the resident population, including sometimes even representatives of public authority.

By the same token, we must all be aware of the social and cultural tensions that have arisen in many countries where there are large and recently established populations of foreign origin, especially when those populations have traditions or beliefs sharply different from those that long-term residents of the country are used to. The benefits that migrants bring to a country as a whole, and over time, are often eclipsed by more immediate and local grievances, whether well-founded or not. Most of us must also now be aware of negative effects felt in some countries of origin, particularly when workers with badly needed skills, for instance in the health sector, are drained away by better conditions and higher salaries abroad.

For all those reasons, it seems clear that few, if any, countries would be willing, so to speak, to lie back and enjoy the benefits of migration without seeking to manage it. But it would be equally foolish to try to stop it altogether, as that could be achieved only by an application of State power so draconian that it would threaten the freedom, as well as the prosperity, of any country that resorted to it.

It is therefore not surprising that more and more Governments are seeking to channel the flow of migrants, whether out of or into their own countries, in ways that maximize the benefits while minimizing the adverse side effects. For instance, countries of destination seek to select migrants whose skills are most needed and have experimented with various policies aimed at promoting harmony and mutual respect between new communities and established citizens. Meanwhile, countries of origin seek more and more to spread the benefits of remittances among their

populations and to work with communities of migrants abroad and give them incentives to invest their acquired skills and capital back home.

Many of those policies require, or can be facilitated by, cooperation between the Governments concerned. Even where that is not the case, there is much to be gained from sharing experiences, both positive and negative, and from exchanging ideas. That of course is precisely the point of the Dialogue that Governments will hold in September. Those two days, and the preparations for them — to which I hope my report will prove a useful contribution — promise to be a very rich learning experience for all concerned.

My only fear is that two days will not be enough. It seems to me that this topic will not be soon exhausted. International migration is likely to be with us as long as human societies continue to develop. It has increased significantly in recent decades, as it did in previous periods of economic integration, such as the one preceding the First World War. In all probability, it will continue to rise in the decades ahead. Both the opportunities and the challenges associated with this most dynamic phenomenon will continue to evolve. Humankind's response will need to be constantly reinvented in ways that will no doubt require Governments to intensify their cooperation. That is why in my report I have suggested that Governments may wish the High-level Dialogue to mark not the end but the beginning of serious global cooperation on this issue.

I do not for one minute suggest, or imagine, that Governments would relinquish any control of their borders or of their policies in an area so central to national identity and sovereignty. But, I do suggest that, if they find the High-level Dialogue as valuable as I believe they will, they may wish to establish a permanent forum of a voluntary and consultative nature, with a view to continuing the debate, the sharing of experience and the exchange of ideas.

If they do so wish, it goes without saying that the United Nations is available as a venue, and that its staff are ready to give Member States whatever assistance they may require in organizing and servicing such a forum. Indeed, that would be a highly appropriate role for the Organization, dedicated as it is by its Charter to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

**The President**: I thank the Secretary-General for his important and illuminating statement.

We know we are dealing with a very important, and in some regards complicated, subject. I think it is very good that we have these events in preparation for the High-level Dialogue in September. I trust that members will participate as much as possible in the panel discussions this week, on 8 June, and in Geneva on 4 July, which is an important date for one delegation, as well as in the 12 July informal interactive meeting in New York with representatives from non-governmental organizations and civil society. Let us go to work.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 54.

**Agenda item 32 (*continued*)**

**Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects**

**Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/60/478/Add.1)**

**The President**: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) that is before the Assembly today.

*It was so decided.*

**The President**: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote or position. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance.

The General Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 8 of its report. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/263).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 31.

**Agenda item 7 (*continued*)**

**Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reopening of the consideration of sub-item (i) of agenda item 97**

**The President**: I would like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/60/L.55, which has been circulated under sub-item (i) of agenda item 97, entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament".

Members will recall that the General Assembly concluded its consideration of agenda item 97 at its 69th plenary, on 23 December 2005. In order to enable the General Assembly to consider draft decision A/60/L.55, it will be necessary to re-open the consideration of sub-item (i) of agenda item 97. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to re-open its consideration of sub-item (i) of agenda item 97?

*It was so decided.*

**The President**: Members will recall also that, at its 17th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2005, the General Assembly decided to allocate sub-item (i) of agenda item 97 to the First Committee. In order for the General Assembly to proceed expeditiously with its consideration of the draft decision issued as document A/60/L.55 under this sub-item, may I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to consider sub-item (i) of agenda 97 directly in plenary meeting under heading G of the agenda, namely, "Disarmament"?

*It was so decided.*

**The President**: May I further take it that the Assembly agrees to proceed immediately to the consideration of sub-item (i) of agenda item 97?

*It was so decided.*

**Agenda item 97 (*continued*)**

**General and complete disarmament**

**(i) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament**

**Draft decision (A/60/L.55)**

**The President**: I give the floor to the representative of Indonesia to introduce draft decision A/60/L.55.

**Mr. Rachmianto** (Indonesia): I am speaking on behalf of the States members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Before I proceed, allow me to make a small correction on the title of draft decision A/60/L.55. The title of the draft decision should read "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament".

In accordance with resolution 59/71, adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 2004, the Open-ended Working Group on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament was supposed to hold an organizational session, to be followed by three substantive sessions on the dates that had been scheduled for 2006. However, due to the fact that a chairperson for the Open-ended Working Group could not be found at the time that the substantive session was to start, we decided to postpone the work of the Open-ended Working Group to a later date.

In that regard, following informal consultations with delegations, and for the purpose of reporting to

the General Assembly before the end of the sixtieth session, as requested by the aforementioned resolution, we would like to introduce the draft decision contained in document A/60/L.55, as orally corrected, for consideration and adoption by the Assembly.

**The President**: We shall now proceed to consider draft decision A/60/L.55, as orally corrected by the representative of Indonesia.

The Assembly will now take action on draft decision A/60/L.55, as orally corrected, entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament". May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft decision A/60/L.55, as orally corrected?

*Draft decision A/60/L.55, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (i) of agenda item 97.

**Agenda item 7 (*continued*)**

**Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: request for the inclusion of an additional item on the agenda**

**Note by the Secretary-General (A/60/238)**

**The President**: As indicated in the Secretary-General's note, the current term of the permanent judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda comes to an end on 24 May 2007. The Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda does not provide for extending the term of office of the permanent judges. In the absence of such a provision, the approval of the Security Council, as the parent organ of the Tribunal, and of the General Assembly, as the organ that elects its judges, would be needed in order to extend the term of office of the permanent judges of the Tribunal until 31 December 2008.

In that connection, the Secretary-General has the honour to request, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Extension of the term of the permanent judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994".

Owing to the nature of the item, unless there is any objection, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees that the relevant provision of rule 40 of the rules of procedure, which would require a meeting of the General Committee on the question of the inclusion of that item on the agenda, can be waived?

*It was so decided.*

**The President**: May I take it that the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, wishes to include on the agenda of the current session an additional item entitled "Extension of the term of the permanent judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994" under heading I of the agenda, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters"?

*It was so decided.*

**The President**: The item is therefore included as item 161.

In his note, the Secretary-General further requests that the item be considered directly in plenary meeting. May I take it that the General Assembly, as requested by the Secretary-General, wishes to consider this item directly in plenary meeting?

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.*

United Nations A/60/PV.89

# General Assembly

Sixtieth session

*Official Records*

**89**th plenary meeting
Thursday, 8 June 2006, 10 a.m.
New York

*President*: Mr. Eliasson ..... (Sweden)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.*

**Agenda item 4**

**Election of the President of the General Assembly**

**Election of the President of the General Assembly for the sixty-first session**

**The President**: In accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, as amended by Assembly resolution 56/509 of 8 July 2002, I now invite members of the General Assembly to proceed to the election of the President of the General Assembly for the sixty-first session.

May I recall that, in accordance with paragraph 1 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 33/138 of 19 December 1978, the President of the General Assembly for the sixty-first session should be elected from among the Asian States.

In that connection, I was informed by the Chairman of the Group of Asian States for the month of March 2006 that the Group has endorsed Her Excellency Ambassador Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the presidency of the General Assembly for the sixty-first session.

Taking into account the provisions of paragraph 16 of annex VI to the rules of procedure, and with the support of the Assembly, I therefore declare Her Excellency Ambassador Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain elected by acclamation President of the General Assembly for the sixty-first session.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to extend my warm congratulations to Her Excellency Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa and to welcome her to the General Assembly and to this splendid Hall today. Her election to the presidency of the General Assembly is a recognition of her impressive record of achievements and, I would add, her warm personality, as well as of the strong commitment of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the principles and purposes of the United Nations.

Let me express my deep appreciation of the presence at today's solemn occasion of the Foreign Minister of Bahrain, His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Mohammed Al-Khalifa.

The President-elect, Ambassador Al-Khalifa, brings a long and distinguished legal career, at both the national and the international levels, to the United Nations. She was one of the first two women lawyers to practice law in Bahrain. She has held many senior positions with leading legal organizations of the world, including with the International Bar Association. She is currently the Legal Adviser to the Royal Court in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Her pioneering role in the legal sphere has been coupled more recently with a prestigious diplomatic assignment. She served successfully as Bahrain's Ambassador to France as well as a permanent representative to UNESCO from 2000 to 2004.

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Throughout her professional life, Ambassador Al-Khalifa has been a champion of women's rights in her society and in the court system. Here at the United Nations — and I am sure all present will agree — her election is a significant contribution to gender equality within the Organization and in the world. She will become only the third female President of the General Assembly and the first one since the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly, in 1969.

Today's election marks the beginning of a three-month transition period. Just as my predecessor, President Ping, did — so ably — I am ready to support my successor in her preparations and ensure a smooth transition between the two presidencies. This goes especially for the ongoing reform processes and the two High-level Meetings, on migration and development and on the least developed countries, which will take place in the General Assembly at the beginning of the sixty-first session.

I warmly wish Ambassador Al-Khalifa the best of success in her new position. I welcome the fact that she is present in New York already, in early June, and ask all of you to extend your cooperation to her and to her Office during this important period of transition.

I now invite Her Excellency Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain, who has just been elected President of the General Assembly for its sixty-first session, to take the floor.

**Ms. Al-Khalifa** (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): I am delighted and honoured to have been elected President of the General Assembly for its sixty-first session. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all member States, in particular the Asian Group, for their endorsement of my election and for the trust they have bestowed on me. My election to this high post is an honour for my country, the Kingdom of Bahrain, which has witnessed real and comprehensive political and economic reforms. Though small in size, Bahrain has registered tremendous achievements.

I will work with you all, in cooperation with you, to continue on the path that my colleagues, the presidents of the General Assembly at its previous sessions, have paved, in particular my colleague His Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson, President of the General Assembly at the current session. He has made great efforts to advance United Nations reform, and his achievements in the areas of international peace and security and of human rights are indeed noteworthy.

I cannot fail to commend the tireless efforts made by the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, during his tenure, to promote the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to enhance respect for human dignity around the world. I commend the continuous manner in which he is working with Member States to liberate peoples from fear, want and disease, as well as to lay the foundations for the reform of the United Nations.

Allow me to congratulate you all on your efforts during this session, which were crowned by the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, the creation of the Human Rights Council, affiliated with the General Assembly, and the strengthening of the Central Emergency Response Fund.

The United Nations today faces challenges in many parts of the world that threaten global security and that require collective efforts to confront and resolve them. It is my hope that, in consultation and in coordination with one another, we will be able to identify any shortcomings and develop a system based on effective multilateralism that can accomplish tangible results and serve our common interests, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Indeed, the United Nations is in need of continuous efforts on the part of us all to revitalize its main organs — hence reforming the Organization has become imperative if it is to achieve its objectives.

I look forward to working with you in pursuing the universal principles enshrined in the Charter. I will also be guided by the Kingdom of Bahrain's foreign policy, which is based on the rule of law, tolerance and respect for human rights and freedoms. We need to enhance the General Assembly's relationship with the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations organs. There is also a need to strengthen the partnership among the United Nations, regional organizations and civil society institutions. I will work with you to ensure that at its sixty-first session, the Assembly continues the process of United Nations reform that began a number of years ago.

I am moved by a deep feeling of pain caused by the tragedies occurring throughout the world at both the human and environmental levels. At the human level, the suffering caused by political disputes, wars, terrorism, poverty and malnutrition motivates me; at the environmental level, pollution, global warming, the

depletion of natural resources and the increase in the rate of extinction of living species compel me to try to make a difference.

In that context, I have not forgotten the many instances of women being harshly treated, in some parts of the world — instances of suppression and human indignities. Those memories indicate that the suffering experienced by women as a result of injustices motivate me to work with you to find appropriate solutions to alleviate their pain and to uphold the principles of the Charter, which emphasizes full respect for all humans without discrimination.

I am further motivated by our need to identify and communicate with one another so as to develop a common understanding. It is inconceivable to me how information technology can have advanced to such an incredible degree and yet we still have such difficulty communicating with one another. Indeed, over the past few years the Internet has made a reality of the notion of the universal library, which a few decades ago was merely a figment of the imagination of the noted Argentinean author Jorge Luis Borges. That attests to the role that advanced information technology can play in bringing human beings closer to one another.

Thus, if we reflect upon all the miseries and tragedies suffered by humanity throughout the twentieth century and to the present day, we realize that they not only harm humanity, but also distort the meaning of creativity, art and beauty, leaving a disastrous imprint on reality and on our lives. In fact, the future of coming generations depends on the way in which we address current problems. We must work to preserve humanitarianism and to ensure that our planet is a safer and more suitable place in which to live. Essentially, we are all human beings who share a common fate, and that is what inspired the founders of our Organization.

Thus it is crucial that we find a comprehensive and practical strategy to combat one of the greatest evils of our time: terrorism. Is it possible to achieve this without addressing the problems of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and extremism in all its forms? Is it possible to achieve this without examining educational curricula that give rise to terrorist ideologies and to exclusion? It is time that we focus on the importance of education in nurturing future generations and foster curricula that promote openness, critical thinking and creativity.

Is this not what we, the peoples of the United Nations, seek to achieve: a clear, pragmatic vision that will put an end to the ongoing violations of human freedoms? We are aware that the majority of the world's people live with hunger, disease, illiteracy, war and internal and international displacement. Yet we should not lose hope, for I believe that great hope arises from great hardships.

In conclusion, I cannot fail to reaffirm my commitment to work with you during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly to attain the objectives set out in the United Nations Charter, within a framework of transparency and full respect for all views and positions.

**The President**: I thank Her Excellency Ambassador Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain, President-elect of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, for her important, thoughtful and forward-looking statement stressing the need for us to live in a world of hope rather than in a world of fear. There will be an opportunity to extend congratulations to the President-elect in the Indonesian Lounge after the adjournment of this meeting.

I now give the floor to regional representatives.

I call on the representative of Zimbabwe, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

**Mr. Chidyausiku** (Zimbabwe): Allow me, on behalf of the Group of African States, to congratulate Her Excellency Sheikha Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa on her election as President of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session. Sheikha Al-Khalifa brings with her a wealth of diplomatic experience. We are confident that under her able leadership and guidance, we will have a fruitful sixty-first session.

The African Group is particularly pleased at this election, as it has brought a breath of fresh air to the General Assembly. Sheikha Al-Khalifa becomes only the third woman President of the General Assembly since 1946, and we welcome her election as a demonstration of our collective commitment to gender equality.

The agenda of the sixty-first session will be challenging and exciting as we continue to grapple with the unfinished business of reform. As we begin to see the outcome of that effort and to assess its conformity with the expressed aspirations of the majority of the United Nations membership, we will

rely on the new President's leadership. While the task before Sheikha Al-Khalifa will not be easy, let me assure her, through you, Mr. President, that she can count on the support of the African Group in her efforts.

**The President**: I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

**Mr. İlkin** (Turkey): It is an honour to express, on behalf of the Group of Asian States, our heartfelt congratulations to Her Excellency Ms. Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa, former Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to France and currently representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain at the International Chamber of Commerce Court of Arbitration in Paris, on her election to the high office of President of the General Assembly for its sixty-first session.

Her deep knowledge, impressive experience and wide professional achievements in the fields of law and diplomacy will, without doubt, prove to be of great value and will be an asset in guiding member States through the important and complex issues before them, while maintaining our momentum towards reforming the Organization.

It is also significant that we have today elected the third woman President of the General Assembly, a step in the right direction towards bridging the wide gender-equality gap that has characterized the presidency of this body.

I would like to assure the President-elect that the Asian Group will render active support and cooperation as she discharges the responsibilities of her high office.

Our group would also like to express its deep appreciation and profound gratitude to the President, His Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson of Sweden, for his extraordinary commitment and able guidance in fulfilling his duties as President of the Assembly at its sixtieth session. His skill, leadership and dedication have been essential for the achievement of the successful outcome of the session during one of the Assembly's most crucial periods.

As a result of his strong determination and perseverance, fundamental changes have, indeed, taken place under his presidency. The establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council are just two of the significant steps that instantly spring to mind. Again, we thank Mr. Eliasson for his outstanding presidency and wish him all the best in his important position as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden. At the same time, we extend our warmest welcome to Her Excellency Ms. Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa as the next President of the General Assembly, and look forward to working closely with her.

**The President**: I now give the floor to the representative of Albania, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

**Mr. Neritani** (Albania): I have the honour to convey, on behalf of the States members of the Eastern European Group, our most sincere congratulations to Her Excellency Ambassador Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain on her election as President of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

Ambassador Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa will take up her post at a time when the United Nations is at a critical juncture in its history. We are confident that her distinguished career, together with her extensive legal background, will further contribute to the advancement of the ongoing process of the reform of the Organization as a whole and that she will guide us through the important tasks of the General Assembly at its next session.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our high appreciation and profound gratitude to the outgoing President, Mr. Jan Eliasson, for the commitment and strong determination that he demonstrated during the sixtieth session. This extensive, wise and vigorous leadership has been very important and made a significant contribution to the achievements that we all witnessed during his outstanding presidency.

Members of the Eastern European Group, in the spirit of cooperation with other groups, will go the extra mile to carry forward the ongoing reform process of the Organization. We assure the newly elected President of the long-lasting support of our Group in continuing to work in the same direction during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, with the ultimate aim of contributing to and creating a more effective and efficient Organization.

**The President**: I thank the representative of Albania for the strong commitment of the Eastern European States to continue the reform process.

I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

**Mr. Malmierca Díaz** (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is my honour and pleasure, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, to warmly congratulate Her Excellency Ambassador Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa on her election as President of the General Assembly for its sixty-first session. We are familiar with the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to multilateralism and to the Charter, and we are aware of Ambassador Al-Khalifa's broad experience at the international level, particularly with regard to international law. We are certain that that experience will prove very useful as she carries out the complex tasks that await her during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

It is a source of particular satisfaction for us that the President of the Assembly will be a woman — and one who has such an impressive history of defending the rights of women. We would like to express the readiness of the States members of the Latin American and Caribbean Group to cooperate as constructively as possible with her to ensure the success of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

**The President**: I give the floor to the representative of Ireland, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

**Mr. Cooney** (Ireland): I would like, in my capacity as Chairman of the Group of Western European and other States, to warmly congratulate Her Excellency Ambassador Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain on her election as President of the General Assembly for its sixty-first session. Ambassador Al-Khalifa's election is not just a personal honour, but a demonstration of the high esteem in which the Kingdom of Bahrain is held by the United Nations. It also marks a significant step towards gender equality in this Organization.

Ambassador Al-Khalifa will assume the presidency at a time when the United Nations is facing many challenges. We in the General Assembly are fortunate that we will be able to call on the considerable skills and experience accumulated by Ambassador Al-Khalifa during her distinguished career as a lawyer, diplomat and tireless advocate for the empowerment of women.

I would like to assure Ambassador Al-Khalifa that she can rely on the fullest support of the Group of Western European and other States in carrying out her high responsibilities.

It is customary on this occasion to thank the President in office of the General Assembly for his or her stewardship during the current session. No President could have been more deserving of our appreciation than you, Sir. Your personal leadership has been essential in securing the significant achievements which have already marked the sixtieth session. We know and expect that, during the three months which remain of your term of office, you will be urging us to make further progress. We look forward to working with you in this common endeavour so that when Ambassador Al-Khalifa assumes the presidency of the General Assembly in September, we can address the future of the United Nations in confidence and unity.

**The President**: I thank Ambassador Cooney for his prognosis that member States will be expected to deliver in the next three months.

I give the floor to the representative of Algeria, who will speak on behalf of the Arab Group.

**Mr. Yousfi** (Algeria) (*spoke in Arabic*): On behalf of the Arab Group in New York, it is my distinct pleasure to express our warmest congratulations to Her Excellency Shaikha Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa on her election as President of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly. This choice by the member States is a source of pride for Bahrain and for each and every member of the Arab Group in New York, as well as for all women, particularly Arab women.

I should like to assure Ms. Al-Khalifa of the fullest cooperation of the Arab Group and to wish her every success in her endeavours.

**The President**: I wish once again to congratulate the President-elect and the Government of Bahrain, represented by their eminent Foreign Minister. The President-elect will have the full support of the General Assembly, and the best possible cooperation. I am very glad to feel this sense of unity in this Hall with respect to your upcoming presidency.

**Programme of work**

**The President**: May I remind representatives that consecutive meetings of the Special Political and

Decolonization Committee and of the Second, Third and Sixth Committees for the election of their Chairpersons and other officers of their bureaux will follow immediately after the adjournment of this meeting. Thereafter, the Assembly will hold its 90th plenary meeting to elect the 21 Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly for the sixty-first session.

I wish to inform members that the election of the Chairpersons and other officers of the bureaux of the First Committee and the Fifth Committee has been postponed to a later date to allow time for the necessary consultations among the regional groups.

*The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.*

United Nations A/60/PV.90

# General Assembly

Sixtieth session

*Official Records*

**90**th plenary meeting
Thursday, 8 June 2006, 11.30 a.m.
New York

*President:* Mr. Eliasson ..... (Sweden)

*The meeting was called to order at 11.30 a.m.*

**Announcement regarding the results of the election of the Chairpersons of the Main Committees**

**The President**: I should like to inform members that the following representatives have been elected Chairpersons of the four Main Committees for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly and are accordingly members of the General Committee for that session:

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), Mr. Madhu Raman Acharya of Nepal;

Second Committee, Mrs. Tiina Intelmann of Estonia;

Third Committee, Mr. Hamid Al Bayati of Iraq;

Sixth Committee, Mr. Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo of Mexico.

I congratulate the Chairpersons of these four Main Committees for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on their election. I wish to remind members once again that the election of the Chairpersons of the First and Fifth Committees will take place at a later date.

**Agenda item 6**

**Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly**

**The President**: In accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, as amended by resolution 56/509 of 8 July 2002, we shall now proceed to the election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly for the sixty-first session.

All members of the General Assembly are eligible in this election, except those already represented in the General Committee, namely, those countries whose representatives have been elected to the presidency of the General Assembly or to the chairmanships of the Main Committees for the sixty-first session.

In accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the annex to resolution 33/138 of 19 December 1978, the 21 Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly for the sixty-first session shall be elected according to the following pattern: six representatives from African States, four representatives from Asian States, one representative from Eastern European States, three representatives from Latin American and Caribbean States, two representatives from Western European and other States, and representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

In accordance with paragraph 16 of annex VI to the rules of procedure, the election of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly by secret ballot will be

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dispensed with when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled.

We shall proceed accordingly.

I shall now read the names of the endorsed candidates.

African States: Cameroon, Guinea, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

Asian States: Bhutan, Indonesia, Kuwait, Philippines.

Eastern European States: Croatia.

Latin American and Caribbean States: Chile, Colombia, Haiti.

Western European and other States: Liechtenstein, Netherlands.

Since the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled in each region, I declare those candidates elected, in addition to the representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council. Let us give them our applause.

The following States have therefore been elected to vice-presidencies of the General Assembly for its sixty-first session: Bhutan, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, France, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zimbabwe.

Again, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the States which have been elected Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly for its sixty-first session.

I wish to remind members that the Chairpersons of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Second, Third and Sixth Committees have been elected. After the election of the Chairpersons of the First and Fifth Committees at a later date, the General Committee of the General Assembly for its sixty-first session will then be fully constituted in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure.

Before concluding this meeting, I would like to inform members that the list of speakers for the following two high-level meetings are now open: the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010. Delegates wishing to be inscribed on the list of speakers for the two high-level meetings are requested to contact the General Assembly Affairs branch, as well as to consult the Journal for further details.

Guinea-Bissau has asked to speak on a point of order.

**Mr. Cabral** (Guinea-Bissau) (*spoke in French*): I would like to express my pleasure and congratulate the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, but with the President's permission, I would like to point out that we have not — I repeat, we have not — taken account of what is contained in rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, namely, that the 21 Vice-Presidents should normally be elected after the election of all — and I stress all — of the Chairs of the Main Committees.

Now it turns out, for reasons of which we are aware, we were not able to elect more than four Chairs of Main Committees today. So what we should have done, in the humble opinion of my delegation, is for the General Assembly to have agreed that there has been a departure from rule 31 before proceeding as the President did.

**The President**: I appreciate the expertise of the representative of Guinea-Bissau, and we take note of his comment. I would hope that this would not change the fact there was full unity on the candidatures for vice-presidencies. If there is a difference of opinion at this stage, or at the later stage when we elect the remaining Committee Chairs, we would like to hear it. But I thank the representative of Guinea-Bissau very much for his careful study of the rules of procedure. I am sure that the Secretariat will take serious note of this point of order.

*The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.*

United Nations A/60/PV.91

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

*Official Records*

91st plenary meeting
Wednesday, 28 June 2006, 10.30 a.m.
New York

*President:* Mr. Eliasson ..... (Sweden)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.*

**Agenda item 112 (*resumed*)**

**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections**

**(d) Election of the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

**Note by the Secretary-General (A/60/895)**

**The President**: As stated in the Secretary-General's note (A/60/895), the General Assembly, in its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, decided to transform the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements into the secretariat of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

In the same resolution, the Assembly also decided that the UN-Habitat secretariat should be headed by an Executive Director at the level of Under-Secretary-General, to be elected by the Assembly for a term of four years upon nomination by the Secretary-General after consultation with Member States.

It is further stated that the General Assembly, by its decision 56/324 of 23 July 2002, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, elected Ms. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka of the United Republic of Tanzania as Executive Director of UN-Habitat, at the Under-Secretary-General level, for a term of office of four years beginning on 1 September 2002 and ending on 31 August 2006.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/206, the Secretary-General nominates Ms. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka as Executive Director of UN-Habitat for another term of four years, beginning on 1 September 2006 and ending on 31 August 2010.

Accordingly, may I take it that the General Assembly wishes to elect Ms. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka as Executive Director of UN-Habitat for another term of four years, beginning on 1 September 2006 and ending on 31 August 2010?

*It was so decided.*

**The President**: I now call on the representative of South Africa, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Mrs. Zia** (South Africa): On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, we would like to concur with the Secretary-General's decision to nominate Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka as Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) for another term of four years.

Since her appointment as Executive Director of UN-Habitat, she has proven herself worthy of leading that important Programme by working hard to analyse the issues and challenges to sustainable urbanization — an issue that is of great relevance to the developing world. Her leadership qualities, which have guided issues of sustainable urbanization, prompted the General Assembly to upgrade the old United Nations Centre for Human Settlements into a full-fledged programme of the United Nations. The Group of 77

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and China hold that decision dear, as it was sponsored by the Group.

The Group of 77 and China commend the progress made in the first four years of UN-Habitat in its new capacity as a Programme. Ms. Tibaijuka has untiringly raised the visibility of the issues and the Programme. In particular, we have noted with satisfaction the active role being played by UN-Habitat in assisting Member States to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, especially target 10 on water and sanitation and target 11 on slum upgrading. In that regard, we urge our development partners to give the Executive Director of UN-Habitat the financial support required.

The youngest programme in the United Nations system plays an important role towards achieving sustainable development. Unfortunately, the resources dispensed to the Programme are disproportionate to its task.

We are all acutely aware of the problems facing the world. Recently, at the third session of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, Canada, we were once again alerted to the fact that one of the most pressing issues we face today is rapid urbanization in a world where half of humanity lives in cities and where, in the next 50 years, that proportion is expected to reach two thirds of the global population. Most of that urban growth is taking place in developing countries, where the major challenge is to combat poverty and provide better access to basic shelter and services, such as clean water and sanitation.

The Group of 77 and China would like to emphasize that, during the ongoing reform process within the United Nations, such programmes as UN-Habitat, which have a clear and unique mandate, should not be sacrificed or diluted by that exercise. Instead, such programmes, which are so intricately linked to sustainable development in a rapidly globalizing world, should be bolstered and strengthened.

Once again, we wish to renew our confidence in the leadership of Ms. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, as she has proven herself in her last term to be a champion of the cause of sustainable urbanization. We particularly commend her participation in the follow-up to the work of the Commission for Africa on urbanization in Africa. Her humanity and humility were so aptly expressed at the third session of the World Urban Forum, where she introduced to the gathering her student and her old teacher, to whom she attributed her professional success, as it was due to that person's encouragement that Ms. Tibaijuka excelled in her debating team and so developed the requisite skills for promoting and creatively leading such a programme.

We look forward to the next four years of her visionary approach around issues of sustainable urbanization, as well as to finding the balance between urban-rural linkages, so touchingly depicted by the little Kenyan Moipei sisters singing at the third session of the World Urban Forum.

The Group of 77 and China wish Ms. Tibaijuka every success in her new term, and we look forward to working with her once again.

**Ms. Bahemuka** (Kenya): My delegation associates itself with the statement just delivered by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

I take this opportunity to welcome and congratulate Ms. Anna Tibaijuka following her reappointment to the post of Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) at this morning's 91st meeting of the General Assembly.

The appointment of Ms. Tibaijuka is a true indication of the trust and confidence we, the States Members of the United Nations, have in her abilities. Of course, she has eloquently justified that trust and confidence through her diligent, dedicated and unwavering engagement at the helm of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme since her first appointment in 2001.

The importance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme cannot be overemphasized, given the issues that it is handling. Issues of human settlements are at the core of sustainable development, as they are closely linked to shelter, which, in its true sense, is indeed a basic need.

We well know that millions of people in the world today either have no shelter at all or live in substandard and inhuman conditions. Equally important are the very worrying rate of urbanization and the associated threatening rate of slum development. It is estimated that, today, over 1 billion people live in slums, and that number is likely to double in about 10 years unless urgent measures are

taken. We know well that those are issues on which UN-HABITAT has developed immense competence, especially during the tenure of Ms. Anna Tibaijuka. It is important therefore that the UN-HABITAT programme be adequately supported, both technically and financially, to enable it to face the challenges before the world in the areas of human settlements, slum prevention and slum upgrading.

Closely linked to the work of UN-HABITAT are the health and environmental aspects — water and sanitation and environmental management and sustainability — of the housing and human settlements area. It is, however, important to note that, by working closely with other United Nations agencies and programmes, UN-HABITAT has been able to integrate those important aspects into its work. That is commendable, as it has greatly contributed to the improvement of human livelihoods through an integrated approach to human settlements and related environmental aspects.

I wish to applaud the Executive Director for her great work in those areas, including in particular her efforts in implementing the Habitat Agenda and the related Millennium Development Goal programmes and projects in Kenya. She has been instrumental in supporting my Government in slum-upgrading programmes. More striking is the fact that she is the first UN-HABITAT Executive Director to have established an office in one of the largest slums in the world, the slum of Kibera in Kenya. I believe, Mr. President, that you yourself visited the Kibera slums during your recent visit to Nairobi and saw the challenges, as well as the efforts that are being made jointly by the Government, UN-HABITAT and other development partners in partnership with grass-roots organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Hence, I call upon Member States to reaffirm their support for the Executive Director in her endeavours to implement the Habitat Agenda and the related Millennium Development Goals in all our countries, especially in the developing world.

My delegation, I personally and Kenya, which is host to UN-HABITAT, reaffirm our support and will facilitate the work of UN-HABITAT and of the United Nations Office at Nairobi to the fullest extent possible.

Let me end by noting the excellent work done by the Executive Director in spearheading very important initiatives, which include organizing the second session of the World Urban Forum, held in 2004 in Barcelona, Spain, and the Forum's third session, which concluded just last week in Vancouver, Canada.

I wish the Executive Director well; we shall give her the fullest support.

**Mrs. Taj** (United Republic of Tanzania): The delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania wishes to join the first two speakers in extending our warmest congratulations to Ms. Anna Tibaijuka on her re-election as Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). Ms. Tibaijuka has done a commendable job in raising the profile of urbanization challenges in all parts of the world.

My delegation wishes specifically to emphasize the importance of capitalizing the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility. That call was made in paragraph 56 (m) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1). Our Vice-President, His Excellency Mr. Ali Mohammed Shein, who delivered a keynote address at the third session of the World Urban Forum, which just ended in Vancouver, has correctly observed that, unless good urban policies are followed by commensurate investment resources at the local level, it will be very difficult to translate ideas into action. We urge Ms. Tibaijuka to enhance her efforts in the challenging task of capitalizing the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. We appeal to donor countries to continue their efforts to assist the Executive Director in that task by providing sufficient and predictable resources in a timely manner, in order to enable her to fulfil her obligations as mandated by Member States.

Tanzania will do all that is within its power to assist the Executive Director to discharge her responsibilities successfully.

**Mr. Lolo** (Nigeria): Let me begin by associating Nigeria with the statement made by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and in particular by congratulating Ms. Anna Tibaijuka on her good work and her strong leadership of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), in recognition of which the Secretary-General recommended her re-election, which the General Assembly has just endorsed. That is a reflection of our collective faith in Ms. Tibaijuka and our satisfaction with her excellent work. Since her assumption of office, Ms. Tibaijuka has worked

tirelessly to place the critical issues of shelter and urban environmental sustainability on the front burner of the global agenda, particularly in Africa, where the challenge of rapid urbanization is most acute.

Nigeria is very pleased at the support that UN-HABITAT has given to the African Union, and more especially the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development as the vehicle to facilitate the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the relevant Millennium Development Goals. UN-HABITAT has also been instrumental in launching the Cities Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and is working with the African Development Bank to ensure the realization of sustainable shelter objectives in Africa. Indeed, Nigeria has been working very closely with UN-HABITAT on the sustainable cities initiative and sustainable urban governance, and it is very happy to house the UN-HABITAT support office in Abuja to further those goals. We look forward to expanding our cooperation and would like to emphasize the need for adequate funding of the core budget of UN-HABITAT to enable the Programme to fulfil its mandate.

**The President**: I think I can safely say that we in the United Nations can congratulate ourselves on the re-election of Executive Director Anna Tibaijuka. During my visit to Nairobi in April, I saw for myself the impact of her leadership on the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and on the important issues of human settlements, urbanization and development.

The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of sub-item (d) of agenda item 112.

## Agenda item 161

## Extension of the term of the permanent judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

### Letter dated 3 May 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/60/878)

### Letter dated 13 June 2006 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/60/906)

**The President**: In document A/60/878, the Secretary-General transmitted a letter dated 21 March 2006 from Judge Erik Møse, President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. In his letter, the President of the Tribunal recalls that the term of office of the permanent judges of the Tribunal will come to an end on 24 May 2007 and that there are a number of multi-accused trials that are currently under way before the Tribunal that are likely to continue beyond that date.

All single-accused trials currently in progress are due to be completed between May 2006 and May 2007. The President of the Tribunal is of the view that it would not be a viable option to delay the commencement of new trials until after the newly elected judges assume their duties on 25 May 2007. This means that most if not all of the permanent judges will be engaged in trials when their four-year term expires on 24 May 2007. Should certain judges not be re-elected, particular cases might have to resume de novo with new judges.

Consequently, in order to ensure continuity and the ability of the Tribunal to implement its completion strategy, as set out in Security Council resolution 1503 (2003) of 28 August 2003, and complete all trials by 2008, the President of the Tribunal requested that the current term of office of the permanent judges of the Tribunal be extended until 31 December 2008. As the statute of the Tribunal does not provide for extending the term of office of the permanent judges, approval of the Security Council, as the parent organ of the Tribunal, and of the General Assembly, as the organ that elects its judges, would be needed in order to extend the term of office of the permanent judges until 31 December 2008. The Secretary-General therefore requests that the General Assembly and the Security Council grant such approval.

In document A/60/906, the President of the Security Council transmits to the President of the General Assembly the text of Security Council

resolution 1684 (2006) of 13 June 2006, whereby the Council, inter alia,

"Decides in response to the request by the Secretary-General and notwithstanding the provisions of Article 12 (bis), of the Statute of the International Tribunal for Rwanda, to extend the term of office of the following permanent judges of the International Tribunal at the Tribunal until 31 December 2008:

- Mr. Charles Michael Dennis Byron (Saint Kitts and Nevis)
- Mr. Asoka de Silva (Sri Lanka)
- Mr. Sergei Alekseievich Egorov (Russian Federation)
- Mr. Mehmet Güney (Turkey)
- Ms. Khalida Rachid Khan (Pakistan)
- Mr. Erik Møse (Norway)
- Ms. Arlete Ramaroson (Madagascar)
- Mr. Jai Ram Reddy (Fiji)
- Mr. William Hussein Sekule (United Republic of Tanzania)
- Ms. Andrésa Vaz (Senegal)
- Ms. Inés Mónica Weinberg de Roca (Argentina)

"Requests States to continue to make every effort to ensure that their nationals who serve as permanent judges of the International Tribunal for Rwanda remain available to serve in their positions until 31 December 2008."

If there is no objection, I propose that the Assembly decide to endorse this recommendation of the Secretary-General, which was endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1684 (2006) of 13 June 2006.

*It was so decided.*

**The President**: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 161?

*It was so decided.*

**Agenda item 114**

**Admission of new Members to the United Nations**

**The President**: I should like to invite the General Assembly to consider the positive recommendation by the Security Council on the application for admission to membership in the United Nations of the Republic of Montenegro.

The Security Council has recommended the admission of the Republic of Montenegro to membership in the United Nations, as stated in document A/60/902. In this connection, a draft resolution has been issued as document A/60/L.58.

I give the floor, first, to the representative of Austria, to introduce draft resolution A/60/L.58.

**Mr. Pfanzelter** (Austria): On behalf of the European Union, the countries aligning themselves with this statement and an impressive number of other sponsors, it is a great honour and privilege to recommend to the Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution before it to admit the Republic of Montenegro to membership in the United Nations. That is in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter, and it follows the adoption of Security Council resolution 1691 (2006) of 22 June 2006, which recommends to the General Assembly that the Republic of Montenegro be admitted to membership in the United Nations.

In his letter of 5 June (A/60/890, annex), President Vujanović has requested the admission of the Republic of Montenegro to membership in the United Nations and has confirmed his country's complete adherence to the Charter of the United Nations. We warmly welcome the presence of the President of the Republic of Montenegro, His Excellency Mr. Filip Vujanović, here with us today.

The Declaration on the Independence of the Republic of Montenegro was passed on 3 June 2006 by the parliament of Montenegro after the national referendum on 21 May based on the Constitutional Charter of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. It envisages Montenegro as a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multireligious society in an independent State with full legal personality under international law. In that Declaration, Montenegro had already signalled its intention to become an active member of the international community and to join the United Nations.

We commend the peaceful and democratic way in which Montenegro gained its independence. We see this as a sign of the political maturity of all actors. The European Union has been a steadfast partner of the people of the Western Balkans in the past years. It fully respects the decision of the people of Montenegro. On 12 June, the foreign ministers of the European Union decided to further develop their relations with the Republic of Montenegro as a sovereign, independent State. On 16 June, our heads of State or Government once again reconfirmed the European perspective of the Western Balkans on the basis of the Stabilization and Association Process.

The European Union is therefore very pleased to present this draft resolution to the Assembly. To our new Member, the 192nd, the Republic of Montenegro, we say welcome to the United Nations.

**The President**: Since the draft resolution was submitted, we have received the names of a large number of additional sponsors, which I will now read out to the Assembly. The additional sponsors are: Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Belize, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Singapore, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, the United States of America, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Viet Nam.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/60/L.58 by acclamation?

*Draft resolution A/60/L.58 was adopted* (resolution 60/264).

**The President**: I therefore declare the Republic of Montenegro admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of Montenegro to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

*The delegation of the Republic of Montenegro was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.*

**The President**: It is a great honour and pleasure for me on this historic occasion to welcome, on behalf of the General Assembly, the Republic of Montenegro as a new Member of the United Nations. I congratulate the people and the Government of the Republic of Montenegro, and I congratulate the United Nations on the admission of its 192nd Member State.

Less than six weeks ago, the people of Montenegro held a referendum with a very high voter turnout, where a majority of the voters chose independence. Two weeks later, on 3 June, the parliament of Montenegro passed a declaration on the independence of the Republic of Montenegro. In an open, democratic and peaceful manner, Montenegro has secured a smooth transition to the status of an independent and sovereign State. In demonstrating its adherence to democratic values and principles and the rule of law, Montenegro has set an important example. I am confident that Montenegro will strive for good-neighbourly relations and strong regional cooperation in the Western Balkans, thus promoting stability in an area struck by conflict in the recent past.

I believe that Montenegro will also actively contribute to the multilateral efforts of the General Assembly and the United Nations in addressing the multitude of global challenges that lie ahead and that we all face together. I wish the Republic of Montenegro and its people peace, prosperity and every success in the future, and again wish them a warm welcome to the United Nations.

I now give the floor to the representative of Zimbabwe, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

**Mr. Chidyausiku** (Zimbabwe): Allow me, on behalf of the Africa Group, to welcome the new State of the Republic of Montenegro to this family of nations. We sincerely congratulate the Republic of Montenegro on becoming the 192nd Member of the United Nations and wish President Vujanović and the people of Montenegro well as the country joins us in the collective endeavour to address the many and complex issues before the United Nations.

The 21 May 2006 referendum that saw the birth of the new and independent State of Montenegro was an exercise of the right to self-determination. That is a principle that we in Africa have always respected and will continue to cherish. Being the newest member of the family is an experience that most of us in the African Group can relate to. It has its challenges as well as its excitement. With respect to the challenges,

the Group of African States will be ready to extend its cooperation to the fullest extent possible to the new Member, the State of the Republic of Montenegro. We look forward to working together with the country's representatives.

The Republic of Montenegro joins the United Nations at a crucial moment, when the Organization is seeking to renew itself and to make itself more efficient and more responsive to the needs of its Members and their citizens, particularly those in the developing world. It is our hope and expectation that the increase in the membership of the United Nations will translate into a groundswell of voices and opinions that will help us realize the many goals and targets that we have set for ourselves.

**The President**: I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

**Mr. İlkin** (Turkey): Today we have gathered in the General Assembly Hall to salute the admission of the Republic of Montenegro as the newest Member of the United Nations. On this happy occasion, as Chair of the Asian Group, I have the honour to extend our warmest congratulations to the Republic of Montenegro on joining the United Nations family as its 192nd Member.

We note with great satisfaction the solemn commitment of the Republic of Montenegro to abide by and fulfil the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations. We would like to commend both the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro for the peaceful manner in which they concluded the dissolution of Serbia and Montenegro, in line with the results of the referendum held in the Republic of Montenegro on 21 May 2006, organized in accordance with the constitutional charter of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. The two brotherly nations have now decided to live in separate homes. We wish both countries continued progress and prosperity.

The Asian Group looks forward to working closely with the representatives of the Republic of Montenegro in promoting peace, stability and welfare in the Balkans, as well as in the international sphere.

**The President**: I now give the floor to the representative of Albania, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

**Mr. Neritani** (Albania): It is my honour to speak on behalf of the States members of the Eastern European Group on the adoption of draft resolution A/60/L.58 and to congratulate the Republic of Montenegro on its admission today to membership of the United Nations. On this occasion, let me warmly welcome His Excellency Mr. Filip Vujanović, President of the Republic of Montenegro, on this historic day for his people and for his country. We rejoice with them and share the sense of joy and fulfilment which presides on this historic day.

As the newest State admitted to this indispensable institution, the Republic of Montenegro will add its voice to the voices of other members of this body to further harmonize our actions towards our common ends and to further strengthen the universality of the United Nations, as well as its legitimacy and effectiveness.

With the admission of this new peace-loving State, willing and able to carry out its obligations under the United Nations Charter, the goal of universality moves closer to its ultimate attainment. We praise the acceptance of Montenegro as a new Member of the United Nations and are reassured in our belief in the family of cooperation and partnership among our countries as we work towards fulfilling our obligations as States Members of the Organization.

**The President**: I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba, who will speak on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States.

**Mr. Benítez Versón** (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States to welcome the admission of the Republic of Montenegro as the 192nd State Member of the United Nations. We welcome the presence at this very special meeting of the delegation of the Republic of Montenegro, headed by the President, His Excellency Mr. Filip Vujanović.

On this historic occasion, when we are welcoming a new Member among us, it is appropriate that we reaffirm our firm commitment to the common values uniting us at the United Nations and to reiterate that we will continue to work tirelessly to realize the hopes placed in the Organization. Much remains for us to do to achieve the noble purposes and goals of the United Nations. We are certain that, through its efforts, the Republic of Montenegro will contribute to progress in that endeavour.

The members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States are prepared to work in close cooperation with the Republic of Montenegro in all areas of United Nations activity. The Republic of Montenegro will always be able to count on our goodwill, support and cooperation. On behalf of all the members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, I wish to reiterate our warm welcome to the Republic of Montenegro and to congratulate the people and the Government of that country on this special occasion, wishing them much success, peace and prosperity.

**The President**: I now call on the representative of Ireland, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

**Mr. Cooney** (Ireland): It is my particular honour, on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, to welcome the Republic of Montenegro as the 192nd Member of the United Nations. The Republic of Montenegro arrives among us as a newly independent State, but we acknowledge its long national history, reflected in its name, which reaches back through the centuries.

The people of the Black Mountain, Crna Gora, Montenegro, have taken the democratic decision to assume their independence and to take their place in the family of sovereign nations. They have done so according to procedures agreed with the Republic of Serbia. We salute the Governments and the peoples of both Montenegro and Serbia for the dignified and peaceful manner in which they managed the delicate process of separation in full conformity with the United Nations Charter.

We welcome the Republic of Montenegro as a State committed to the maintenance of a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multireligious society. We look forward to the Republic of Montenegro playing an active and constructive role in the work of the United Nations.

We, for our part, pledge ourselves to work with the Republic of Montenegro to fulfil the purposes and promote the principles of the United Nations Charter in the interests of the people of Montenegro and of all mankind.

**The President**: I now give the floor to the representative of the United States of America, the host country.

**Ms. Wolcott Sanders** (United States of America): On 12 June 2006, the United States formally recognized the Republic of Montenegro as a sovereign and independent State, consistent with the request of its Government and the will of the people of Montenegro. The United States now welcomes Montenegro's admission as a Member of the United Nations and takes note of its commitment to fulfil its international obligations.

We join our colleagues in extending our congratulations to the Republic of Montenegro on this momentous occasion in its history.

**The President**: I now call on the representative of Serbia.

**Mr. Kruljević** (Serbia): Allow me at the outset to welcome in our midst His Excellency Mr. Filip Vujanović, President of the Republic of Montenegro. We are gratified at his presence in the General Assembly Hall today.

The Republic of Serbia, continuing the international personality of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, is pleased to see the Republic of Montenegro — now a neighbouring and friendly country with which it has maintained close ties — become the 192nd Member State of the United Nations. We are convinced that the Republic of Montenegro will contribute fully to the respect for and pursuit of the principles and purposes of the world Organization.

I would like to emphasize that the Republic of Serbia, having spent nearly a century in a common State with the Republic of Montenegro, will seek to develop the closest and most friendly bilateral relations with that country. Good-neighbourliness and regional cooperation constitute the cornerstone of my country's foreign policy in its commitment to the lasting stabilization of the region of South-East Europe. We are convinced that that concept is also truly contributing to the fulfilment of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It is our firm belief that, through bilateral and regional cooperation and Euro-Atlantic integration processes, to which both the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro aspire, that common goal can be achieved most efficiently.

The Republic of Serbia stands ready to extend its full support to the Republic of Montenegro within the

United Nations and to closely cooperate and coordinate its activities with that country. We believe that in doing so, both countries will contribute to the strengthening of the role of the world Organization and its capacity to respond to the numerous challenges of the present-day world.

**Address by Mr. Filip Vujanović, President of the Republic of Montenegro**

**The President**: The Assembly will now hear an address by His Excellency Mr. Filip Vujanović, President of the Republic of Montenegro.

*Mr. Filip Vujanović, President of the Republic of Montenegro, was escorted into the General Assembly Hall.*

**The President**: On behalf of the General Assembly, I have the great pleasure to welcome to the United Nations His Excellency Mr. Filip Vujanović, President of the Republic of Montenegro, and to invite him to address the General Assembly.

**President Vujanović**: It gives me particular pleasure and honour to convey the gratitude of the Republic of Montenegro to the States members of the General Assembly, which voted in favour of Montenegro's accession to membership of the United Nations only five weeks after the decision of Montenegrin citizens to restore independence.

(*spoke in Montenegrin; English text provided by the delegation*)

I would also like to thank Mr. Per Stig Moeller, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, and the Security Council for its recommendation that Montenegro become a State Member of the world Organization. Of course, our special appreciation also goes to the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for his significant contribution to our swift accession to United Nations membership.

After 88 years, Montenegro regained its independence on 21 May, thus becoming the youngest country in the world. It regained the independence it had gained at the Berlin Congress in 1878. This time, it was done without a peace conference, in a democratic referendum. The referendum process was organized in compliance with democratic best practices and international standards, as generally recognized by all international and local observers. As a result, given its genuine commitment to democracy, Montenegro immediately received international recognition.

The referendum was held in close cooperation with the European Union and represented another significant step towards our strategic priority related to European and Euro-Atlantic integration, demonstrating that we have the democratic capacity required for further progress. Our membership in the United Nations represents a step forward in the overall development of Montenegro and additional proof that we are on the right track. We are aware of the many challenges that lie ahead, but, after a long period of time, we will now be responsible for our own destiny, in line with the development capacities of our State.

For all of us in Montenegro, the United Nations has always provided an irreplaceable means of connection among various States, peoples and cultures, particularly during the times of crisis that the Balkans experienced in connection with the recent tragedies and conflicts of war. Throughout that period, the role of the United Nations was of paramount importance in encouraging dialogue and compromise. Although Montenegro was not directly engulfed by the war, it was not spared its consequences. Therefore, the role of the United Nations during that period was valued and respected to an even greater degree. For that reason, as a new State Member of the United Nations, Montenegro is ready actively to support the Organization's efforts aimed at the peaceful resolution of conflicts and to make its contribution to the humanitarian efforts of the United Nations as well as to its peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions.

I would like to recall a significant, but perhaps insufficiently known, detail from our Montenegrin past which serves as testimony to Montenegro's devotion, throughout its history, to this lofty goal. In January 1897, the Prince of Montenegro, Nikola Petrović Njegoš — later King Nikola I Petrović Njegoš — when sending Montenegrin soldiers to the island of Crete to join a peacekeeping mission of the then Great Powers to help resolve the ongoing conflict, proudly said:

> "The Great European Powers paid me a great honour by inviting me to send troops composed of my Montenegrins to Crete to join the international army, because they believed that Montenegrins would discharge their duty as befitting them — honestly and heroically."

I am sure that this principle, which is still valid, as well as the commitment of Montenegro — despite its size — to contribute to peace will also be reaffirmed in the future engagement of our country within the United Nations.

On the basis of its previous experience, Montenegro is deeply aware of the importance of establishing relations with other countries based on friendship and partnership, respecting their sovereignty and territorial integrity. In that regard, we attach special importance to good-neighbourly relations and regional cooperation, with the goal of ensuring economic and overall prosperity and stability.

We would like in particular further to develop close cooperation with the Republic of Serbia, not only in the context of good-neighbourly cooperation and a commitment to European integration, but in all spheres of common interest, reflecting our social and historic ties. As a new State Member of the United Nations, Montenegro undertakes to respect all obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, including all United Nations documents signed and acceded to by the State union of Serbia and Montenegro. Montenegro hereby reaffirms its dedication to observing the principles of international law, as well as to respecting the International Court of Justice, which safeguards those principles.

In the present context of challenges to global security, Montenegro wishes fully to contribute to the fight against terrorism, organized crime and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. To that end, Montenegro will in particular respect all United Nations conventions defining measures to efficiently deal with those challenges.

As an ecologically oriented State, Montenegro has a special obligation to respect United Nations efforts aimed at promoting sustainable development at the global level, and it will actively continue to develop as a State that enables its citizens to enjoy overall progress on the basis of sustainability. In that respect, we find it particularly important that the first United Nations EcoBuilding in our region, which will be used by various specialized United Nations agencies, is to be built in Montenegro in cooperation with the United Nations.

Taking into account the efforts made by the United Nations aimed at reducing the existing gap between the rich and the poor, the developed and the underdeveloped, the small and the large, Montenegro will further dedicate itself to the full implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, thus contributing to better living standards for its citizens and to stability in general.

Montenegro will continue to develop and shape its policy in line with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which serve as the basis for modern democracies. Furthermore, it will continue to implement and promote a policy that fully respects the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all citizens regardless of their personal or other differences.

Montenegro is very proud of its multi-ethnic and multireligious harmony. This is one of the fundamental values that distinguish it in both the regional and the broader international context.

Montenegro is aware of the opportunities offered by the United Nations to small countries, which are given a chance to preserve and protect their interests on an equal footing with other States and are able to promote their identity and specific characteristics through membership in the United Nations. In that respect, I am sure that even small countries, as has been proved in the past, can contribute to the goals for which the United Nations stands.

From the very beginning, the United Nations has initiated positive changes and played an irreplaceable role on the international scene. Respect for, and the promotion of, its achievements and principles have been embraced by all modern and democratic States, including Montenegro. I am confident that, despite the fact that the United Nations has always faced — and will continue to face — challenges, the Organization has bright prospects and a bright future. United by the common goals and lofty values to which all of us are committed, we can be sure of long-term stability, security and overall prosperity.

I am positive that Montenegro can make its contribution to that noble goal. Today, by becoming the one hundred ninety-second State Member of the United Nations, Montenegro has assumed, with honour and dignity, that challenge and responsibility, confident that it will meet the attendant expectations and obligations with equal success.

**The President**: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the President of Montenegro for his important statement.

*Mr. Filip Vujanović, President of the Republic of Montenegro, was escorted from the General Assembly Hall.*

**The President**: I should like to inform Member States that the flag of the Republic of Montenegro will be raised at a ceremony that will take place in front of the delegates' entrance immediately following the adjournment of this meeting.

*The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.*

United Nations A/60/PV.92

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Official Records

# 92nd plenary meeting
Friday, 30 June 2006, 9.25 p.m.
New York

*President:* Mr. Eliasson ..... (Sweden)

*The meeting was called to order at 9.25 p.m.*

**Agenda items 46 and 120 *(continued)***

**Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields**

**Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit**

**Draft resolution (A/60/L.59)**

**The President**: The General Assembly will resume its consideration of agenda items 46 and 120 in order to take action on draft resolution A/60/L.59.

It is now more than nine months since our leaders adopted the World Summit Outcome. It is high time and gratifying indeed that we now can agree on the effective implementation of the decisions of the summit in the development area. After all, development was at the heart of the world summit.

I have emphasized on several occasions that implementation of our commitments in the field of development and the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals remain fundamental tasks for the United Nations. With the adoption of the draft resolution before the General Assembly — A/60/L.59 — members will, during the sixtieth session, have taken important steps with respect to all three pillars of the United Nations, that is, development, peace and security, and human rights. We have shown that those pillars are mutually reinforcing.

This draft resolution is a result of your efforts, of your creative thinking, of your flexibility and of your ability to find possible ways forward. Let me commend you for having set aside your differences to reach an agreement acceptable to all. This text is yours, and I am proud to endorse it.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the two co-Chairmen, Ambassador Verbeke of Belgium and Ambassador Diarra of Mali, for having steered this process to a successful conclusion. I would like also to thank the two facilitators, Paul Lolo of Nigeria and Carlos Ruiz Massieu Aguirre of Mexico, for their tireless efforts to reach compromises and develop viable formulas.

It is now our responsibility to translate into action, in good faith, the words of the commitments undertaken. Let us do so bearing in mind the sombre realities in the world as well as the millions of people whose lives and future we can and must improve.

Let me conclude by reminding members that we still have to reach an agreement on the draft resolution on reform of the Economic and Social Council. I had hoped that we would be able to do so before the beginning of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council. However, time will not allow us to do so.

There are, as members well know, only a few outstanding issues in the draft resolution. The co-

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

06-41738 (E)

Chairmen will be in touch with members some time after the session of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva in order to come to a conclusion on reform of that Council before the end of the sixtieth session. A strengthened Economic and Social Council is in the interest of all Member States and is crucial for the standing of the economic and social issues on the agenda of the United Nations.

Before we proceed further, I should like to consult the Assembly with a view to proceeding immediately to consider draft resolution A/60/L.59. In that connection, since the draft resolution was only circulated earlier today, it would be necessary to waive the relevant provision of rule 78 of the rules of procedure.

The relevant provision of rule 78 reads as follows:

> "As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting."

Unless I hear any objection, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees with this proposal.

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/60/L.59.

I shall now call on those representatives wishing to make statements in explanation of position before action is taken on the draft resolution. May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

**Mr. Kumalo** (South Africa): Mr. President, I wish to thank you for having convened this meeting.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Today we are completing a process which started eight months ago, in which our leaders, through the World Summit Outcome, laid the foundation for enhancing development. Commitments were made and systemic issues agreed upon, and all that was needed was full and timely implementation.

The Group of 77 and China had hoped that the follow-up to the World Summit Outcome would lead us on a path that would enhance the momentum generated by the World Summit Outcome so as to fully realize and implement the commitments of all major summits and conferences in the economic, social and related fields, including the Millennium Development Goals, and help create an environment that would strengthen global political will as to the need to improve the lives of the more than a billion people who still live below the poverty line.

With the adoption of this draft resolution, the question will remain whether we have succeeded in the task set for us by our leaders to mainstream development as the most important central pillar of the United Nations agenda.

This draft resolution does not fully reflect the issues of implementation that it should have. In many cases, it is but a reiteration of already agreed language from the World Summit Outcome and therefore does not succeed in maintaining the political will and momentum of the World Summit Outcome.

Without concrete action to implement all the commitments on trade, agricultural subsidies and the transfer of vitally needed resources to developing countries which the developed community has already committed itself to achieving, we will not achieve our goal to fully realize, by 2015, the outcomes of all major summits and conferences, including the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit Outcome.

The draft resolution also fails in that there is no political will from our partners to create an equitable and balanced financial, economic and social global order, which is necessary for creating a framework for implementation in an integrated, coordinated and comprehensive approach in the global partnership for development. The draft resolution, therefore, does not take the concept of national responsibility further into the realm of implementation, in the context of how developing countries can be assisted so as to enable them to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Much as we appreciate the fact that this draft resolution will be adopted, the Group of 77 and China has two regrets. The first is that there was reluctance to improve the structure of the draft by slightly reordering the paragraphs after we had agreed on it. That is a pity, as willingness to continue the process under facilitation could have resolved in a few hours the whole issue of the placement of paragraphs and would have resulted

in a far better draft resolution that the one we will be adopting.

Our second regret concerns the fact that, during the negotiations, the generous offer by His Royal Highness the Emir of Qatar to host a review conference on the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus was left out of paragraph 62 because there was an objection on the part of our partners. The irony, of course, is that the General Assembly had already accepted, in resolution 60/188, the offer made by the State of Qatar to host that review conference. We are pleased, however, by the emphasis on the need for adequate and substantive preparation for the review conference that is contained in the draft resolution that we will be adopting today, and we will work hard during the sixty-first session to make sure that the offer made by Qatar becomes a reality.

It is our hope that, with the adoption of this draft resolution — imperfect as it may be — in the coming years all the commitments will be implemented in a timely manner so as to create a better life for all those millions of people who so desperately need to be lifted out of poverty.

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to thank the co-Chairmen, the facilitators and our partners for all the hard work they did to ensure that we could have this important draft resolution before us. We want to acknowledge the cooperation of our negotiating partners in making it possible to adopt this draft resolution by consensus, albeit many, many months later.

Finally, let me pay tribute to my colleague from Austria, whose term as representative of the presidency of the European Union (EU) ends tonight, and I welcome the new representative of the EU presidency, my neighbour, the Ambassador of Finland, and wish him all the best in this whole process.

**Mr. Al-Sulaiti** (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): I am grateful for this opportunity to explain our position on draft resolution A/60/L.59.

The State of Qatar has been an ongoing partner in international efforts to bring about development, particularly concerning the combating and eradication of poverty, as well as the promotion of development worldwide in a more just manner. Attaining those goals will have a positive impact on stability and on the maintenance of international peace and security.

As a member of the Group of 77 and China, which it chaired in 2004, the State of Qatar is particularly interested in international development. The State of Qatar has thus presented international initiatives and supports all such initiatives in the area of development. We were honoured to host the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, which led to the adoption of the Doha Development Agenda within a multilateral framework. We also hosted the Second South Summit in 2005, at which we presented an initiative to establish a development fund.

At the meeting on financing for development held in the context of the 2005 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly (see A/60/PV.3), His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, presented an initiative to host in Doha the first follow-up conference for the International Conference on Financing for Development, on the basis of paragraph 73 of the Monterrey Consensus. We have also proposed the convening in 2007 of the first review conference, with a view to bringing about more progress in the area of development. The initiative of His Highness the Emir enjoys the support of many heads of State or Government who participated in the high-level meeting on financing for development. That support was reflected in the statement of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of developing countries following the high-level meeting of the General Assembly. Furthermore, in resolution 60/188, on follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the General Assembly welcomed Qatar's initiative.

We had hoped that paragraph 62 of the draft resolution before us would clearly state that the first review conference would be held in the State of Qatar, since resolution 60/188 had welcomed Qatar's initiative. It is regrettable that the draft resolution that we are about to adopt omits any reference to that initiative.

While we are disappointed that the paragraph proposed by the Group of 77 and China was not included in the draft resolution, we stress that, out of respect for the President of the Assembly and the Chair of the Group of 77 and China, we will join the consensus on the draft resolution before us. We hope that this omission will be corrected, and that His Highness the Emir's initiative will be activated during

coming negotiations on preparations for the review conference.

**The President**: I note the explanation of position by the representative of Qatar, referring to paragraph 62 of draft resolution A/60/L.59, on preparation for the review conference on the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, as set out in General Assembly resolution 60/188. As we are all aware, resolution 60/188, inter alia, welcomes the offer of the Emir and the Government of Qatar to host the conference, and we note that this offer has been reiterated today by the representative of Qatar.

**Mr. Al-Anazi** (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): We support the statement made by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China with respect to the generous offer of His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar to host the first review conference of the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development, in the capital of Qatar, Doha. That offer had been welcomed by the General Assembly in resolution 60/188 on follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development. We look forward to the adoption during the sixty-first session of a resolution that will follow through on the Emir's initiative, particularly in the light of the intensive efforts made by the State of Qatar to support international endeavours for development and poverty eradication. We shall therefore join the consensus on draft resolution A/60/L.59.

**Mr. Suález Salvia** (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of Argentina and Guatemala. Our delegations associate themselves with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. As medium-income countries, we hail the consensus achieved on the important draft resolution before the General Assembly in document A/60/L.59. We believe that, for medium-income countries, it marks an important step and we appreciate it as such.

Our delegations also wish to reiterate our thanks to the Emir of Qatar for his offer to our heads of State and Government to host the follow-up conference of the Monterrey summit in the city of Doha. Our delegations commit themselves to work constructively to achieve consensus on that generous initiative.

**The President**: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/60/L.59.

The Assembly will now take a decision on A/60/L.59, entitled "Follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/60/L.59?

*Draft resolution A/60/L.59 was adopted* (resolution 60/265).

**The President**: I shall give the floor to those representatives wishing to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted.

**Mr. Wallace** (United States of America): First of all, Mr. President, I want to commend you for your ceaseless encouragement to finish work on this important resolution on development, a resolution that proved difficult not because of fundamental disagreements between members, but because of the complexity of the issues we had to address. The final product is a good one. Faithful to both the substance and the spirit of the world summit, it demonstrates clearly our commitment to work together in partnership to stimulate growth, economic freedom, social equity and the rule of law.

Commitment, of course, is not enough. As we have heard over and over again during our discussions, implementation is the key. The true test will be the extent to which the resolution actually leads to more effective and focused work by Member States and the United Nations system to give people hope, opportunity and the tools to succeed.

I would like to commend the Co-Chairmen, Ambassador Ribeke and Ambassador Diarra, for their work. They guided us with wisdom throughout the process. I would also like to praise the work of the facilitators, Paul Lolo, who helped us move from general discussions to serious negotiations and consensus on some of the hardest issues, and Carlos Ruiz, who suggested many of the final compromise packages with thoughtfulness and creativity.

I would like to note for the record that the United States understands that the reference to the International Conference on Population and Development and to the Beijing Declaration and

Platform for Action and the use of the phrase "reproductive health" in the resolution do not create any rights and cannot be interpreted to constitute support for or endorsement or promotion of abortion.

Lastly, we, too, would like to thank the Permanent Representative of Austria, a friend of all Member States, for his tremendous service representing the presidency of the European Union (EU). We also welcome the Permanent Representative of Finland, as she commences her country's EU presidency.

**Ms. Lintonen** (Finland): I am speaking on behalf of the European Union. The European Union appreciates the balanced outcome of our negotiations. It recognizes that extensive and protracted consultations were required in order to finalize such a complex resolution, and is convinced that the follow-up to the development-related aspects of the 2005 World Summit Outcome will greatly benefit from the document. At the same time, we would like to reaffirm that all the development-related provisions contained in the World Summit Outcome, including those that have not found their way into the resolution, have equal dignity and should be implemented in a timely manner.

Follow-up to the development-related provisions of the World Summit Outcome can be ensured only through a long-term process, and the resolution is only the first step in that direction. It should serve as an agreed platform for our mutual commitments. We are hopeful that the adoption by consensus of this important resolution will reinvigorate the global partnership for development and thereby pave the way for the successful conduct of the very important development-related efforts to come: the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, the discussions on the Economic and Social Council draft resolution on reform, the high-level dialogue on migration and development, the mid-term review of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and the work of the Second Committee.

I thank members for their warm welcome.

**The President**: I am sure that I speak for all members of the General Assembly in welcoming the Permanent Representative of Finland as she begins her term of office representing the presidency of the European Union at the United Nations.

**Mr. Al-Muharraqi** (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): I wish at the outset to express my support for the statement made by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

My delegation would like to express its views on paragraph 62 of the resolution that we have just adopted. The delegation of Bahrain fully agrees with the statement made by the State of Qatar in that respect. We had hoped that that paragraph would reflect the proposal made earlier by the Group of 77 and China, since that initiative is a matter of great importance for developing States. In joining the consensus, we expressed our readiness to accept the current formulation on the basis that it would be appropriately rectified during the forthcoming negotiations on the preparatory process for the first review conference.

**Mr. Laurin** (Canada): I am speaking in explanation of position on paragraph 34 of the resolution just adopted.

(*spoke in French*)

Canada did not want to stand in the way of consensus on that paragraph, but we would like to express our concerns regarding the challenges with which we are confronted with a view to achieving a reduction in the level of greenhouse gases in the context of the Kyoto Protocol. Canada remains firmly committed to dealing with climate change within the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other international processes. Furthermore, we are currently developing a new action plan to deal with air pollution that will allow for an appreciable reduction in greenhouse gases.

(*spoke in English*)

In conclusion, allow me to thank the Co-Chairmen, the facilitators and our partners for making it possible for us to reach consensus on the resolution today.

**Mr. Al-Hebsi** (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation would like to explain its position on paragraph 62 of the resolution just adopted. My delegation supports the statement made by the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China in that regard. We had hoped that paragraph 62 would reflect the offer made by His Highness the Emir of Qatar to host, in Doha in 2007, the first review conference of the

International Conference on Financing for Development.

That initiative is of great importance in terms of providing impetus for international cooperation for development. In this context, therefore, my delegation looks forward to that offer being taken up during the forthcoming negotiations on the preparatory process of the review conference.

**Mr. Chaudhry** (Pakistan): We align ourselves with the statement made by the Chairman of the Group of 77.

We are pleased that a development resolution has been adopted today by consensus. Development is a matter of high priority for developing countries. The resolution reiterates many commitments already made in the past, but makes only modest references to monitoring mechanisms to ensure that those commitments are implemented. Nevertheless, we hope that we will build a strong, robust monitoring mechanism at the United Nations to ensure effective implementation.

We would like to take this opportunity to support the statement made by the delegation of Qatar regarding its offer to host, in Doha, the first review conference of the Monterrey Consensus.

**The President**: I call on the observer of the Observer State of the Holy See.

**Monsignor Cushley** (Holy See): My delegation welcomes the resolution on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 world summit and the renewed commitment of Member States to work in favour of development, which in itself is an essential and central goal among the various ends of the Organization.

In accord with its explanations of position in the past, the Holy See welcomes all measures that will provide for the achievement of equal rights everywhere and promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom. Therefore, while my delegation supports the resolution in question, it hereby restates its understanding that the term "reproductive health" and the reaffirmation in the resolution of the full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly do not endorse the creation or maintenance of a right to abortion or access to it as a service.

**The President**: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda items 46 and 120.

**Reports of the Fifth Committee**

**The President**: The General Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 121, 135 to 140, 142 to 145, 146 (a), 147 to 152 and 124.

If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee that are before it today.

*It was so decided.*

**The President**: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote or position. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in the plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance. That means that where recorded or separate votes were taken, we will do the same. I also hope that we may proceed to adopt

without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Fifth Committee.

**Agenda item 121 (*continued*)**

**Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/561/Add.1)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/234 B).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 121.

**Agenda item 135 (*continued*)**

**Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/606/Add.1)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

We will now take action on the draft decision, entitled "Revised estimates arising in respect of Security Council resolution 1660 (2006) on the appointment of reserve judges at the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991".

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft decision was adopted.*

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 135.

**Agenda item 136**

**Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/916)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it three draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 10 of its report. The texts of the three draft resolutions, for the time being, are contained in documents A/C.5/60/L.59, A/C.5/60/L.60 and A/C.5/60/L.62, respectively.

We will now take a decision on draft resolutions I to III.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Cross-cutting issues". The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*Draft resolution I was adopted* (resolution 60/266).

**The President**: Draft resolution II is entitled "Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy". The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*Draft resolution II was adopted* (resolution 60/267).

**The President**: Draft resolution III is entitled "Support account for peacekeeping operations". The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*Draft resolution III was adopted* (resolution 60/268).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 136.

**Agenda item 137**

**Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/917)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6, of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.53.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/269).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 137.

**Agenda item 138**

**Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/540/Add.1)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.55.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/17 B).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 138.

**Agenda item 139**

**Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/918)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.49.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/270).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 139.

**Agenda item 140 (*continued*)**

**Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/574/Add.1)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.56.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/121 B).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 140.

**Agenda item 142**

**Financing of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/919)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.57.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/271).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 142.

**Agenda item 143**

**Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/920)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.61.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/272).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 143.

**Agenda item 144**

**Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/921)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.50.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/273).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 144.

**Agenda item 145**

**Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/541/Add.1)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.58.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/18 B).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 145.

**Agenda item 146**

**Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991)**

**(a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/922)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.45.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution, which is entitled "Financing of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission". The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/274).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 146.

**Agenda item 147**

**Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/923)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.51.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/275).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 147.

**Agenda item 148**

**Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/924)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.52.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/276).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 148.

**Agenda item 149**

**Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East**

**(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/925)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.54.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution, which is entitled "Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force". The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/277).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 149.

**(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/928)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 12 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.42.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution, which is entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".

A single separate vote has been requested on the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 17 of the draft resolution. Is there any objection to that request? As there is none, I shall put to the vote the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 17 of the draft resolution, on which a single separate vote has been requested. A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour*:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Fiji, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against*:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Palau, Papua New Guinea, United States of America

*Abstaining*:

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay

*The fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 17 were retained by 99 votes to 6, with 49 abstentions.*

[Subsequently the delegation of the Congo informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

**The President**: I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution as a whole. A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour*:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg,

Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against*:

Israel, Palau, United States of America

*Abstaining*:

Australia

*The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 150 votes to 3, with 1 abstention* (resolution 60/278).

[Subsequently the delegation of the Congo informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 149.

**Agenda item 150**

**Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/926)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.47.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/279).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 150.

**Agenda item 151 (*continued*)**

**Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/562/Add.1)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.46.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/122 B).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 151.

**Agenda item 152**

**Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/927)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.48.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/280).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 152.

**Agenda item 124 (*continued*)**

**Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007**

**Reports of the Fifth Committee (A/60/608/Add.3 to Add.6)**

**The President**: The Assembly will now consider four reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 124.

I shall now give the floor to those representatives wishing to speak in explanation of position before action is taken on the draft resolutions and decisions.

**Mr. Oshima** (Japan): Two days ago, in the Fifth Committee, in dissociating itself from the Committee's recommendation to lift the spending cap by consensus, my delegation expressed its strong hope that good progress would be made and tangible results achieved on the remaining key issues of management reform, mandate review and other issues associated with United Nations reform. That, I said, would give us confidence and satisfaction and, hopefully, enable us to change our position and join a full consensus decision when it comes to the General Assembly plenary.

Over the past two days, intensive efforts have been made on all sides to find generally agreed solutions to these issues, and I commend all negotiating partners for their efforts to that end. In particular, I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for the special efforts you yourself have made in this regard. In addition, we all are very grateful to Ambassador Allan Rock of Canada, one of the co-Chairmen on mandate review, for his special dedication to making progress, up until his very last day as Ambassador in New York.

On the issue of management reform, we regret that, despite extended and good-faith efforts on all sides, consensus has not been possible. My delegation put forward a modest, concrete suggestion on the question of limited discretion for the Secretary-General in budgetary implementation, an issue that is long overdue for consideration. This was incorporated into the proposal informally circulated by the United States, Australia and Japan. We appreciate the fact that a version of the proposal has been well received by a large number of Member States, including States members of the Group of 77 and China. I hope that this will be a useful basis for possible consensus in our further talks.

On the issue of mandate review, to which my delegation also attaches great importance, along with reform in management, accountability and oversight, we once again express regret that consensus continues to elude us, despite the fact that we had made some very encouraging progress thanks especially to the extraordinary efforts made by the co-Chairmen, for which we are again grateful.

We had come fairly close to an agreement on a road map for mandate review on a win-win basis, but, unfortunately, it became clear that more time was needed to clinch it. I join others in expressing my delegation's dismay at not having been able to achieve agreement on the issue at this point.

However, this is not and must not be the end of the road. We really need to continue with our serious work and reach decisions soon on key issues if we are to be successful in implementing what our leaders decided in the Outcome Document on mandate review, which is to review all mandates older than five years, complete the process and take the necessary decisions arising from that review during 2006.

Bearing all the foregoing in mind, it is with great regret that my delegation finds it impossible to change the position it took in the Fifth Committee, and, consequently, Japan will dissociate itself from consensus in the plenary on the decision to lift the spending cap.

In that regard, I wish to mention the fact that Japan is proud of its record of fulfilling its financial obligations to the United Nations in full and without conditions, and my delegation will strive to maintain that record. Causing a financial crisis for the Organization has never been the aim of the spending cap. As I stated on 23 December last, in this very Hall, the spending cap was intended — as I put it — as concrete evidence of Member States' firm

determination to realize, in good faith, the implementation of United Nations reform.

We believe that a more efficient and effective United Nations is in the interest of all Member States. The status quo is not an option for us. The decisions in the September outcome document need to be implemented in good faith and in full. My delegation stands ready to work with other delegations to achieve progress on management reform during the next resumed session of the Fifth Committee. We are also determined, in the days and weeks ahead, to continue to work strenuously and constructively with other like-minded Member States to achieve results on mandate review.

**Mr. Hill** (Australia): Australia must also dissociate itself from lifting the spending cap by consensus. Last December, we decided by consensus to limit the Secretary-General's spending authority. That demonstrated our collective commitment to United Nations reform and our shared conviction that reform should be achieved as early as possible in this session of the General Assembly. To lift the cap without meeting that responsibility to reform would be to defeat the purpose for which the cap was originally accepted.

When the matter was taken up in the Fifth Committee on Wednesday, I said that we had not achieved important reforms on mandates or management reform, and therefore the proposed action was premature. I said I nevertheless hoped that such reforms would be achieved by today. They have not been. We have no resolution before us on management and oversight reform or mandate review. For us, that is a serious failure, and it is a failure by us, the Member States.

To agree to review the mandates or the work programme of any organization on a regular basis is simply sensible practice. It allows an organization to ensure that its funding and its staff are focused according to contemporary and not historical priorities. It is the least that our constituencies should expect of us.

Similarly, the need to implement best management practices should also be beyond debate. Necessary reforms — such as accepting international public sector accounting practices, publishing an annual report for the Organization, operationalizing the ethics office, establishing a chief information technology officer, providing a modern information and technology structure, and adopting a modern enterprise resource planning system — should not take months of endless debate. Neither should sensible oversight reform, such as ensuring budget independence for the Office of Internal Oversight Services or appointing members to the already established Independent Audit Advisory Committee.

Necessary reforms in procurement should have been authorized and better public access to United Nations documents provided. Our failures to achieve these necessary reforms should not allow us to lift the cap, to lift the only discipline that we had imposed on ourselves — which is the cap.

Having said that, and having accepted the reality that the cap will be lifted, my delegation will nevertheless continue to work hard towards the goal of a United Nations Organization that is best able to meet the many and important demands that are placed on it.

Finally, there are many — including yourself, Mr. President — who deserve to be thanked for a great deal of effort to have done better than what we had before us tonight, but I would specifically mention Mr. Allan Rock, Ambassador for Canada, because he retires within a couple of hours. I thank him for his tireless efforts and wish him well for the future.

**Mr. Wallace** (United States of America): Thank you, Mr. President, for the tremendous effort that you and your colleagues made on behalf of all of us over the last several weeks.

As the Assembly knows, my delegation dissociated itself from consensus on this matter in the Fifth Committee. We do so again here tonight, and our remarks can be found in the records of the Fifth Committee (see A/C.5/60/SR.65).

Finally, we too would like to thank Allan Rock, the Permanent Representative of Canada, for his tireless service to this body, particularly over the last several weeks. We wish him well as he leaves us after tonight, and we will all miss him.

**Mr. Laurin** (Canada): Let me begin by acknowledging the very helpful and constructive role you have played, Mr. President. We encourage you to persevere.

The breadth and depth of Canada's engagement in this Organization is well known. Our commitment to

ensuring its effectiveness is unshakeable. We are, as the Assembly knows, among the few countries that have, without exception, paid their dues in full and on time — a concrete expression of our commitment to the reliable financing of this Organization.

Canada joined in the lifting of the cap on Wednesday night on the basis of what we thought was a shared understanding of the work to be completed by this evening's plenary. That included substantial progress on both management reform and mandate review. My colleagues know how hard our delegation has worked to bring one of those tracks to a successful conclusion. Sadly, what we have seen since that time cannot, in Canada's view, be construed as a serious effort to find common ground or to advance the cause of reform.

What we know is this: the United Nations cannot continue to be effective unless it modernizes its programme of work through mandate review and its methods of work through management reform. Above all, the management structures within which the United Nations undertakes its operations must be suited to the times. One simply cannot confront new problems with antiquated structures.

We are therefore deeply distressed at the failure of this body to seize the moment and act on what our leaders have instructed us to do, namely, modernize the Organization. We believe this failure undermines the Organization's credibility, and we fear it will ultimately undermine support for the Organization among the Governments of the world. That is a decision with which we cannot associate ourselves. Nevertheless, we intend to dedicate ourselves fully to achieving consensus on both management reform and mandate review in the weeks and months ahead.

**The President**: We shall first take up the report of the Fifth Committee issued as document A/60/608/Add.3.

The Assembly has before it a draft decision entitled "Expenditure authorization for the biennium 2006-2007", recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

We will now take an action on the draft decision. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*The draft decision was adopted.*

**The President**: We shall now take up the report of the Fifth Committee issued as document A/60/608/Add.4.

The Assembly has before it a draft resolution entitled "Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or Security Council", recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.63.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/281).

**The President**: We shall now take up the report of the Fifth Committee issued as document A/60/608/Add.5.

The Assembly has before it a draft decision entitled "Additional office accommodation in Geneva for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights", recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft decision, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.65.

We will now take action on the draft decision. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*The draft decision was adopted.*

**The President**: We shall now take up the report of the Fifth Committee issued as document A/60/608/Add.6.

The Assembly has before it a draft resolution entitled "Capital master plan", recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of this report. The text of the draft resolution for the time being is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.66.

We will now take an action on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/282).

**The President**: There is a request for explanation of position. I give the floor to the representative of Finland, speaking on behalf of the European Union.

**Ms. Lintonen** (Finland): I am speaking on behalf of the European Union. While the European Union is encouraged by the constructive spirit that came to the fore during our negotiations, we are disappointed that we are not seeing more of it this evening. But we have demonstrated that if we work together we can achieve tangible progress. The lifting of the cap was important, because it is in our shared interest that the United Nations continue its crucial mission to deliver services around the world.

Mr. President, in your letter of 28 June, which reflects the political understanding of representatives of all groups on the way ahead in the reform process, you addressed the remarkable progress achieved so far, which in our view deserves to be highlighted. A new Peacebuilding Commission has been established, and it met for the first time on 23 June. The new Human Rights Council has replaced the Commission on Human Rights; its first session ended today. We set up the Central Emergency Response Fund. We adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. We established the Ethics Office. We strengthened oversight capacities, and we introduced a system of whistle-blower protection and financial disclosure. We achieved all of that in a little over six months. Today, we adopted resolution 60/265, on development follow-up, which reflects a spirit of global partnership. And the intensive negotiations on the financing of peacekeeping operations have been successfully concluded.

Agreement was not reached on mandate review or management reform today, and we must now redouble our efforts in order to reach consensus next week. But there a consensus may be emerging on reform methods, specifically on the replacement of the Integrated Management Information System, the creation of the position of Chief Information Technology Officer in order to better manage the information technology resources of the Organization, the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, better reporting and an increase in the Working Capital Fund. We need to build on the progress next week as we continue our work along the lines that you, Mr. President, have proposed.

Reform is an ongoing process, and a lot remains to be done. The European Union will continue to work hard and constructively with all partners with a view to achieving a successful conclusion. We appeal to all delegations to enhance the global partnership that has been evolving in recent days in order to help us to take the decisions on substance and process which are necessary if we are to make our Organization more efficient and effective. It is crucial that by 7 July we achieve meaningful and concrete results together.

The European Union is deeply grateful for your efforts, Mr. President, to bridge the gaps, to create an atmosphere of trust and to show us the way ahead.

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 124.

The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Fifth Committee before it.

**Statement by the President**

**The President**: During the past few weeks in the General Assembly there has been intense work on Secretariat and management reform, as well as on mandate review, with a view to implementing the decisions taken by our leaders at the 2005 world summit. By those efforts we have begun the process of creating the necessary conditions for a more efficient, effective and accountable United Nations.

As I indicated in my letter of 28 June, we can look back on a number of significant accomplishments during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly. I also outlined measures that now need to be pursued on issues relating to Secretariat and management reform.

The Assembly's work during the past few weeks was carried out in an increasingly improved atmosphere. Member States have started to discuss these complex issues with a view to better understanding each others' positions and to finding common ground for mutually acceptable solutions.

Over the past few days our colleagues in the Fifth Committee have been focused on the various issues raised in the Secretary-General's report "Investing in the United Nations" (A/60/692). I want to thank all delegates for working literally day and night to find compromises regarding the proposals on the table. I would also like to thank the Chairman of the Fifth Committee and the Secretariat for their contributions.

In particular, I would like to thank the coordinator, Mr. Morteza Mirmohammad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the skilful way in which he has led the negotiations on a possible draft resolution.

In those negotiations — in which work must continue — some areas of possible agreement have emerged. There is agreement on the establishment of the post of Chief Information Technology Officer in the Office of the Secretary-General. There is general acceptance of the need to replace the Integrated Management Information System with a modernized system to ensure that the Organization provides a high degree of transparency and accountability.

There is support for the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards. There is, furthermore, a general understanding of the need for an increase in the Working Capital Fund. There is also support for the Secretary-General in his intention to submit a single, comprehensive annual report to the General Assembly containing financial and programme information, aimed at enhancing the transparency of the Organization and the accountability of the Secretariat to Member States. Consultations are also being pursued with regard to the idea of providing the Secretary-General with limited discretion in budgetary implementation.

The Fifth Committee has been working hard on the complex management reform issues in the "Investing in the United Nations" report. At the same time, the Committee has also had to deal with peacekeeping budgets. Nearly 20 resolutions amounting to almost $5 billion have been negotiated and adopted. The workload has been extremely heavy.

Given that situation, it is understandable that more time will be needed to finalize the negotiations. Expectations of results have been expressed in this Hall today. The Fifth Committee has thus decided to extend its resumed session from 5 to 7 July so that it may devote its attention solely to concluding its work on the "Investing in the United Nations" report with a view to working out a comprehensive, substantial draft resolution on Secretariat and management reform for adoption by the General Assembly.

Another important aspect of our reform efforts is mandate review. As members may recall, at the 2005 world summit, our leaders asked us to review all mandates older than five years in order to strengthen and update the programme of work of the United Nations. To facilitate that review, the Secretary-General provided us with his report "Mandating and delivering" (A/60/733). I would like to thank the Co-Chairs for management reform, Ambassador Rock of Canada and Ambassador Akram of Pakistan, for their constructive and dynamic leadership of the complex mandate review process. I would also like to mention and thank Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry of Pakistan and Heidi Hulan of Canada for their important and diligent efforts in the working group. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Assistant Secretary-General Robert Orr and his very competent staff for their excellent work.

As members know, in parallel with the work in the General Assembly, mandate review processes are ongoing in the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. The Co-Chairs have provided me with an interim report on their work. According to the report, comprehensive discussions have been held on the report entitled "Mandating and delivering". Member States have welcomed the electronic database of mandates as a helpful tool for their deliberations. The database should be a living source of information — that is, it should be continuously updated.

A working group has been established to consider mandates five years or older that have not been renewed. The 400 mandates that the group has considered have been separated into categories on the basis of their implementation status. The group will continue by identifying areas for early action within those categories.

During the past few days, intensive consultations have taken place among Member States regarding the proposals for the way forward outlined in the interim report by the Co-Chairs. It is my understanding that there is support for the idea that, as soon as the review of mandates five years or older that have not been renewed has been concluded, consideration should be given to entering a second phase of discussion on the remaining mandates. It is, however, also my understanding that further consultations will be needed on the guiding principles for such a second phase.

It is thus my intention to convene informal consultations of the plenary on mandate review as soon as possible in the month of July to consider the way forward. I also suggest that the informal plenary consider giving a renewed mandate to the working

group so that it can continue its work on the non-renewed mandates with a view to broadening its scope to consideration of the remaining mandates once an agreement on how to proceed is agreed upon.

Regrettably, Ambassador Rock will leave his post in New York tomorrow to return to Canada. Let me take this opportunity to wish him all the best in his continued professional pursuits and in his personal life. Alan Rock is a deeply respected friend and colleague who will be sorely missed; he will always be welcomed back to the United Nations in New York. I have asked Ambassador David Cooney of Ireland to take his place as Co-Chair for management reform. I am very pleased to inform the Assembly that Ambassador Cooney has agreed to take on that task and is ready to start his work in July. We know that he will do so with his well-known competence and wisdom.

Before concluding, I would also like to note that the General Assembly has now authorized by consensus the expenditure of the remaining funds appropriated through resolution 60/247 A, also noting the disassociation from the consensus by some Member States. With this decision, the United Nations is now in a position to fully implement its programme of work during the remainder of the biennium 2006-2007 and to deliver its services to peoples and crisis areas all over the world. In order to do that effectively, the work to reform, streamline and modernize the United Nations must be pursued with vigour and a sense of shared responsibility.

**Extension of the work of the Fifth Committee**

**The President**: As there are still pending issues to be considered by the Fifth Committee, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees to extend the work of the Committee from Wednesday, 5 July, to Friday, 7 July 2006, on the understanding that conference services will be provided from resources allocated for the General Assembly?

*It was so decided.*

**The President**: I wish all members a pleasant evening and a good Fourth of July weekend.

*The meeting rose at 10.50 p.m.*

United Nations A/60/PV.93

# General Assembly

Sixtieth session

*Official Records*

**93**rd plenary meeting
Friday, 7 July 2006, 5.05 p.m.
New York

*President*: Mr. Eliasson ..... (Sweden)

*The meeting was called to order at 5.05 p.m.*

**Reports of the Fifth Committee**

**The President**: The General Assembly will consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 46 together with items 118, 120, 122, 124, 128, 129 and 136, and agenda item 122.

If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee that are before it today.

*It was so decided.*

**The President**: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote or position. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in the plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance. I therefore hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Fifth Committee.

**Agenda items 46, 118, 120, 122, 124, 128, 129 and 136 (*continued*)**

**Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields**

**United Nations reform: measures and proposals**

**Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit**

**Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations**

**Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007**

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

06-42087 (E)

**Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations**

**Human resources management**

**Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/831/Add.1)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.67.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution, which is entitled "Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide: detailed report". The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 60/283).

**The President**: I shall now give the floor to those delegations wishing to explain their positions on the resolution just adopted.

**Mr. Wallace** (United States of America): We have before us a document that authorizes implementation of a number of proposed measures recommended by the Secretary-General in his detailed report on investing in the United Nations (A/60/692). These changes, while long overdue, represent positive first steps towards the achievement of the types of Secretariat and management reforms agreed to by world leaders during the September 2005 summit and reflected in the outcome document (resolution 60/1). They will only have value, however, if they are implemented in a timely and cost-effective manner and if they are accompanied by additional reforms that are well known now to all Member States.

The United States appreciates the dedication and hard work of representatives in negotiating the proposal before us. While we support the individual elements and look forward to their effective implementation, we believe at the same time that critical elements are still missing. We do not understand why, after agreement to confidence-building measures — and all of us working together to create a positive spirit in the Fifth Committee over the last week — we still do not have a resolution that reflects reforms that we all know are fundamental and reasonable.

The section on oversight provides little in the way of concrete action to improve oversight, merely pushing down the road the consideration of improvements that should be enacted now. Chief among them is the need to ensure operational independence from the Secretariat for the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). In order for OIOS to operate effectively and provide Member States with information for their decision-making, the auditors and investigators need to be independent of those that they audit and investigate. To not provide that independence now, when all of us know it is needed, is short-sighted and, ultimately, damaging of the Organization's own credibility.

Another key deficiency is in the area of procurement reform. While the resolution grants a small amount of resources to begin badly needed improvements in the inadequate purchasing functions of the United Nations, the conditional and temporary nature of the authorization leaves us doubtful as to whether the United Nations can quickly and decisively repair this activity. We wonder, for example, what qualified procurement officers would be willing to take temporary jobs with the United Nations knowing that their longer-term status is so uncertain. That is clearly another area where Member States can, and should, act decisively. We regret that the resolution does not reflect such an approach.

Lastly, while we firmly believe in the need for the United Nations to have a senior information technology officer to guide the Organization in updating its critical infrastructure for the future, we also believe that that post should be financed through resources that have already been approved. We simply do not understand why, in a $4 billion biennial budget, there are not savings and efficiencies to provide for that position. We continue to believe that savings from a review of mandates and other reforms would be more than sufficient to finance this and other required Secretariat improvements.

Our commitment to reform remains strong and sharply focused, and we look forward to working with others to carry out the revolutionary reform that Secretary of State Rice called for just last year.

**Mr. Maqungo** (South Africa): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China following the adoption of the draft resolution contained in the report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/831/Add.1), on "Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide".

When we take stock of our follow-up on the decisions of our world leaders contained in the Summit outcome document (resolution 60/1), we can look back with pride in that we have already established the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission and have agreed on a resolution on development. Today we have managed to agree on large elements of management reform, as we did in December and April as well.

The adoption of today's resolution follows shortly after the collective agreement by Member States, on 30 June 2006, to lift the spending cap that was imposed on the Organization in 2005. The consensus decision to lift the spending cap ensured the continued financial solvency of the United Nations. It has also lifted the unfortunate cloud of doubt that has been hanging over the Organization and has improved the atmosphere by putting us on the right path to re-establishing the trust among Member States that is needed to reach consensus decisions.

Although it was regrettable that a few Member States were not able to join the consensus on 30 June 2006, we appreciate the assurance given that that would not prevent them from meeting their financial obligations to the United Nations as enshrined in the Charter. We are further encouraged that all Member States were able to join consensus today in adopting resolution 60/283.

By adopting this resolution, Member States have collectively pronounced themselves in a very positive manner on the proposals that the Secretary-General submitted to the Fifth Committee for its consideration less than three weeks ago regarding strengthening the ability of the Organization to effectively fulfil its mandate. Member States have shown that we are able to reach consensus on important reform elements not because of the threat of the spending cap or the discipline that some argued that cap might instil, but because we are committed to strengthening the Organization.

By respecting the existing mechanisms for negotiations and the sovereign right of every Member State to pronounce itself on budgetary and administrative matters, as well as by making a greater effort to understand the views and concerns held by others and not dismissing them outright, we were able to adopt this resolution by consensus. Member States were also able, for the first time ever, to reach consensus on the aspect of limited discretion in budgetary implementation, which had proven to be a very divisive issue in previous negotiations. In an attempt to reach consensus and resolve a previously divisive matter in a constructive way, the Group of 77 and China submitted a concrete proposal on the issue of limited discretion. We further revised it after consultations with other Member States, and we are encouraged that that facilitated the negotiations and enabled the Committee to reach agreement on the proposal. We have been assured by the Secretariat that the decision of the Assembly on this issue will provide the Secretary-General with a greater ability to meet the evolving needs of the Organization while maintaining the integrity of the budget process and ensuring that the programmes approved by Member States are fully implemented.

We wish to recognize the constructive contribution made by our negotiating partners in reaching a consensus decision.

Member States can feel proud of our achievements, reflected in the text that we have just adopted. Among other things, the resolution paves the way for the Secretariat to move towards the adoption of new accounting standards, which the Secretary-General felt were needed to strengthen financial management practices in the Secretariat. By adopting the new standards, the General Assembly is sending a positive signal to the remaining entities of the United Nations system. It is thereby also enabling them to work together towards having a more transparent accounting system in place by 2010.

Furthermore, the resolution approves the request by the Secretary-General for a more up-to-date information communication technology system by replacing the present system with an integrated enterprise-resources planning system or another appropriate solution. That is a key component for the

successful and expeditious implementation of the new accounting standards, as well as for improving interconnectivity between the various United Nations offices in New York, Nairobi, Geneva and Vienna, and the regional economic commissions and peacekeeping operations.

Member States should therefore be ready to act on the future requests of the Secretary-General to strengthen the information and communication technologies system by providing the necessary additional resources that would be needed for the implementation of those proposals. Without such a tangible commitment, we stand the risk of supporting reform in name only.

Another important element that will ensure the success of the significant monetary investments that Member States are expected to make over the next few years so as to improve the information and communication technologies system is the decision of the Assembly to establish a Chief Information Technology Officer in the Office of the Secretary-General. The Group of 77 and China supported providing the requisite resources for that important post. The Secretariat repeatedly stated that it would not be able to fulfil that crucial function if it had to find the resources through redeployment. Any decision not to provide additional resources would have undermined the future success of the collective efforts to improve the information and communication technologies system. Clearly, the suggestion that this function be met from within existing resources was not a feasible option.

The resolution we have just adopted also approves an increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund. That increase has been long overdue. Although the Group of 77 and China were supportive of the request by the Secretary-General to increase the level to an amount higher than the $150 million approved in the resolution, we were willing to settle for a lower amount in order to ensure that the Committee could reach consensus on that matter.

The resolution further contains agreement on a policy on public access to United Nations documents and a prototype of the proposed annual report.

The General Assembly at its sixty-first session will receive the findings of the external evaluation of audit and oversight, as well as the comprehensive governance review. During the world summit, Member States agreed that those findings would form the basis for our future consideration of the issue of operational independence of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, as well as the terms of reference for the Independent Audit Advisory Committee.

It was therefore regrettable that those elements, which were not before the General Assembly at this stage, were brought into our negotiations on the present resolution. Attempts to change the consensus agreements that were reached in September and December 2005, as well as in April 2006, on the necessity for an external evaluation have not been productive and we trust that they will not be repeated. However, in an attempt to reach consensus, the Group of 77 and China and other Member States have put forward proposals to place on record our political commitment to strengthening oversight.

Similarly, and without the benefit of any formal request before us, we have proposed that resources be provided to the Secretary-General to strengthen the internal controls of the United Nations procurement system and to develop programmes for business seminars in developing countries. We have been assured that this will be sufficient until Member States are able to consider the actual requests of the Secretary-General based on the reports that will be placed before the Committee at the sixty-first session. We are encouraged that this proposal has enjoyed wide support, but regret that an agreement on such an important issue was not unanimous.

The Group of 77 and China remain committed to efforts to strengthen the United Nations and enable it to implement its mandates more effectively and use its resources more efficiently. We are also committed to providing the Organization with sufficient resources to meet the mandates bestowed upon it, as well as our share of the additional resources that may be needed to finance approved reform proposals. We therefore believe that it was crucial, in the resolution adopted today, for Member States to pledge their commitment to providing the United Nations with adequate funding, as supports for reform in the Organization should also entail a willingness to fund such proposals. We furthermore remain committed to meeting our financial obligations on time, in full and without conditions.

Member States at the next session of the Assembly will receive and consider the remaining proposals that we have requested in resolution 60/260.

including measures to ensure greater accountability in the Secretariat and to Member States. We expect that the Secretariat will implement the provisions of that resolution fully, as respect for General Assembly resolutions is part and parcel of our efforts to strengthen accountability. General Assembly resolution 60/260 provides the departure point for any action that the Assembly will take in future on the proposals of the Secretary-General.

In that vein, the five reports of the Secretary-General, which we have acted on today, have been submitted in accordance with the provisions of resolution 60/260, which some Member States in May 2006 argued would delay the consideration of the proposals of the Secretary-General. We trust that this question has been laid to rest once and for all and that we will be able to continue to move beyond rhetoric.

In conclusion, we wish to pay tribute to the coordinator of this important item, Mr. Seyed Morteza Mirmohammed, for his efforts in ensuring that the Fifth Committee was able to reach a consensus agreement on the reports of the Secretary-General on investing in the United Nations. We also wish to thank the numerous Secretariat officials who have been working tirelessly over the past few weeks to provide Member States with the information needed to facilitate our decision-making.

**The President**: I am gratified by the adoption this afternoon of the resolution "Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide", as recommended by the Fifth Committee. That is an important step on the path to implementing what our leaders asked us to do in the field of Secretariat and management reform at the 2005 world summit.

I am particularly pleased by the constructive atmosphere that prevailed during the difficult negotiations of the Fifth Committee over the past three days. I commend all the members of the Committee for working tirelessly to find compromise solutions to the complex issues in the resolution we have just adopted. While I note that, in some areas, the resolution does not fully meet the concerns of all delegations, I am glad to note that it was adopted by consensus.

By the adoption of the resolution, the General Assembly has requested the Secretary-General fully to operationalize the ethics Office. It has emphasized the need to strengthen accountability in the Organization. It has decided to establish the post of Chief Information Technology Officer at the level of Assistant Secretary-General. It has decided to replace the Integrated Management Information System with a next-generation enterprise resource planning system. It has decided to authorize the Secretary-General, on an experimental basis, a limited discretion for budgetary implementation to enter into commitments up to $20 million in 2006-2007 and 2008-2009. That would enable the Secretary-General to meet the evolving needs of the Organization. That experiment will be reviewed at the sixty-fourth session. It has decided to approve the adoption by the United Nations of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards. It has resolved that the Working Capital Fund for 2006-2007 shall be increased from $100 million to $150 million, effective from 1 January 2007. It has taken note of the intention of the Secretary-General to prepare a single comprehensive annual report containing financial and programme information aimed at enhancing transparency in the Organization, and it has authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to $700,600 to strengthen the procurement system, pending action by the General Assembly at the sixty-first session on the report of the Secretary-General on procurement reform.

The resolution also looks forward to the results of the independent external evaluation of the audit and oversight system, to two proposals on ensuring the full operational independence of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, as well as to taking action on the terms of reference of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee with a view to operationalizing it.

As to the future work on management reform, the Assembly decided to defer to its sixty-first session the question of consolidation of peacekeeping accounts and increases in the peacekeeping reserve fund. Furthermore, at the coming session, the Assembly will consider proposals of the Secretary-General on governance, oversight and accountability; human resources management; procurement; and administration of justice.

By the decision today, we have contributed to the strengthening of the United Nations. Together we have taken a step to make the Organization more efficient and effective. We have begun consolidating a culture of accountability, transparency and integrity in the Secretariat. The General Assembly has also pledged to provide the United Nations with adequate resources on a timely basis to implement its mandates.

It is my sincere hope that the cooperative atmosphere experienced the last few days will prevail and have a positive influence on the continued work on mandate review. Next week, my two co-Chairs, Permanent Representative Akram of Pakistan and Permanent Representative Cooney of Ireland, intend to initiate discussions on the way forward. I urge the Assembly to support the co-Chairs in this important endeavour.

It remains now only for me to thank each and every one of you for the determination and stamina with which you have worked to achieve these results. Your collective efforts have now provided the Organization with the first measures to put in place mechanisms to respond to the visions of our leaders to make this an efficient, effective and accountable Organization.

I want to pay tribute to the tireless efforts of the Chairman of the Committee, Permanent Representative Ashe, and his very able staff, and, of course, to the skilful work of Mr. Morteza Mirmohammad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the coordinator of the informal consultations of the Fifth Committee on management reform. Mr. Mirmohammad dedicated his days and nights, literally, to ensure the adoption of the draft resolution on this important issue to the satisfaction of all Member States. I thank him wholeheartedly, and I thank all the colleagues in the Fifth Committee.

I shall make a few general remarks later on the remaining reform issues.

**Agenda item 122 (*continued*)**

**Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/609/Add.3)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of its report. The text of the draft decision, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/60/L.64.

We will now take action on the draft decision, which is entitled "Questions deferred for future consideration". The Fifth Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft decision was adopted.*

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 122 and has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Fifth Committee.

Before adjourning this meeting, I would like to inform members that the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, which delegates know we agreed upon in December last year, is open for signature. I encourage Member States that have not yet done so to sign this Optional Protocol at the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs.

I have just a few words and brief observations on the reform process as a whole during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly and what remains on the agenda. The Assembly has taken some significant decisions during its sixtieth session. The establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission and of the Human Rights Council, as was mentioned earlier, are just a few, but important, examples. To make institutional reform is usually a very complicated operation. I commend you for the constructive spirit in which we could finalize that work. I would like to express my gratitude to you for the constructive spirit in which you have worked to implement the mandate given to us from the World Summit.

There are still weeks ahead of us for continued work. I hope we shall make progress on some of the outstanding issues. We have, for instance, the General Assembly revitalization issues and, as you know, we also have a debate on 20 July on Security Council reform. I know that some delegates will be leaving New York later this month or in August, and I am certain that at the end of August, when we still have the chance to deal with some important issues, we will attend to that work with vigour and determination to finish our important tasks.

Among other things, we need to finalize the resolution on reform of the Economic and Social Council. That is important for the strengthening of the social and economic issues within the United Nations. I also hope that we will be in a position to adopt a United Nations counter-terrorism strategy, thereby strengthening international cooperation and coordination to combat this scourge.

I would like to conclude by thanking you all for good work. I look forward to finalizing the remaining reform issues before the end of this session. Delegates will receive a letter later today or over the weekend in which I will spell out in greater detail the remaining items on the agenda. I again want to thank delegates for hard work. I hope that you will have some rest during the summer, but you also know that we will all come back to finish the work and, by that, do as much as possible to implement the Outcome document and thereby follow what our leaders wanted us to do in September of last year. By this, I thank you again for heroic work in many instances and I wish delegates a pleasant weekend.

*The meeting rose at 5:35 p.m.*

United Nations A/60/PV.94

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Official Records

94th plenary meeting
Thursday, 20 July 2006, 10 a.m.
New York

*President:* Mr. Eliasson ..... (Sweden)

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Diarra (Mali), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.*

**Earthquake in the Indian Ocean**

**The Acting President** (*spoke in French*): I should like, on behalf of all the members of the General Assembly, to extend our deepest sympathy to the Government and the people of Indonesia for the tragic loss of life and material damage that have resulted from the recent earthquake in the area.

May I also express the hope that the international community will show its solidarity and respond promptly and generously to any request for help made by that country.

**Agenda items 117 and 120 (*continued*)**

**Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters**

**Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit**

**The Acting President** (*spoke in French*): Members will recall that the General Assembly held a joint debate on agenda items 9 and 117 at its 47th and 50th plenary meetings, on 10 and 11 November 2005.

Members will recall also that the General Assembly held the High-level Plenary Meeting on agenda items 46 and 120 at its 2nd and 4th to 8th plenary meetings, on 14 to 16 September 2005, and also adopted a number of resolutions under those two items.

With regard to items 117 and 120 of the agenda, the President of the General Assembly indicated, in his letter dated 27 June 2006, that it would be necessary to continue consideration in plenary of those items on a date that would take into account the programme of the General Assembly. He also stressed, recalling the recommendation made by the 2005 world summit, that the issue of Security Council reform was an essential aspect of the process of United Nations reform.

On 20 April 2006, Member States were able to discuss this important question in the framework of the Open-ended Working Group charged with considering the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters.

The significant number of States inscribed on the list of speakers is evidence of the General Assembly's interest in, and commitment to, seeking a solution that would meet with the broadest possible consensus. I hope, therefore, that we will have a fruitful and constructive debate.

**Mr. Yousfi** (Algeria): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group.

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for having convened this plenary meeting devoted to

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the important topic of the reform of the Security Council. This gathering provides us with an opportunity to restate the African common position on the reform of that body as outlined in the Ezulwini consensus, contained in the Sirte Declaration and reaffirmed at the Khartoum and Banjul summits. But first at all, I would like to underline some of the guiding principles of our approach.

First, the reform of the Security Council is an important and integral part of the wider reform process of the United Nations. Secondly, in order to enhance the Council's legitimacy, effectiveness and capacity to address threats and challenges to international peace and security, the reform must be comprehensive in addressing both the expansion of its membership and the improvement of its method of work and decision-making so as to achieve greater transparency and accountability.

Thirdly, Africa is determined to redress the historical injustice of being the only continent lacking representation in the permanent member category of the Security Council and to ensure its legitimate right to be fully represented in all decision-making organs of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council.

With regard to the elements of the African common position, it is worth noting that the Ezulwini consensus clearly stated that, as far as Africa is concerned, full representation means no fewer than two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and the privileges of permanent membership, including the right of veto, and five non-permanent seats — that is to say, two additional seats for Africa. The selection of Africa's representatives in the Security Council, as well as the question of the criteria for the selection, should be the responsibility of the African Union.

In the spirit of achieving those objectives while contributing to the reform the Security Council based on the principles of democracy and equitable representation of all geographical regions, the African Group submitted draft resolution A/60/L.41 during the Assembly's current session.

On that basis, the African Group is ready to engage in a constructive dialogue with the entire membership in order to achieve a Security Council reform that meets Africa's legitimate aspiration, as well as those of other regions — a reform that, preferably, will enjoy consensus.

**Mr. Martirosyan** (Armenia): On behalf of the States members of the Group of Eastern European States eligible for non-permanent membership of the Security Council, I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for having convened this meeting.

It is the long-standing position of our Group that making the Security Council more representative and balanced and its work more effective and transparent is vital if we are to adapt the United Nations to the realities of the twenty-first century.

The issue of Security Council enlargement is of particular relevance to the Eastern European Group. Its member States are by any standards underrepresented in that body as currently structured. I remind the Assembly of the fact that since 1991 the Eastern European Group has more than doubled its membership, with, most recently, the Republic of Montenegro joining the United Nations as its one-hundred-and-ninety-second Member. It is therefore our common and long-standing position, expressed, inter alia, in the letter of the Chairman of the Group dated 28 February 2005 (A/59/723), that any increase in the non-permanent membership of the Security Council should ensure the enhanced representation of the Eastern European Group by allocating that Group at least one additional non-permanent seat in an enlarged Security Council.

We also believe that the existing regional groups should be retained for the purposes of the distribution of seats on and election to the Security Council.

Finally, let me express our hope that the momentum gained in the process of Security Council reform as a result of the 2005 world summit will be further strengthened and eventually lead to tangible results.

**Mr. Matussek** (Germany): This is my first time addressing the General Assembly as Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations. Let me say that I am grateful for this opportunity to participate in a discussion on one of the central elements of United Nations reform.

In the last few weeks, we have seen progress on a number of important reform issues. We have inaugurated the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. We are working intensively on mandate review and on creating system-

wide coherence. On management reform and budget reform, huge efforts are being made to come to an agreement.

All this is good; all this is commendable. And yet the more progress we make in those fields, the more the one big reform issue that we have not yet touched sticks out like a sore thumb.

United Nations reform without Security Council reform will not only be incomplete; it will not work. The reason for this is not that the Security Council is more important or on a higher level in terms of hierarchy than other United Nations bodies. The reason is that the work of the Security Council is interlinked with and affects the work of the whole of the United Nations. It is therefore with good reason that the summit last September called for "early reform of the Security Council".

We all know in our hearts that General Assembly revitalization and the reform of the working methods of the Security Council will not work without a reformed Security Council. Peacebuilding and peacekeeping will become more effective the more legitimate the Council's decisions are seen to be. To a very large extent, the outside world identifies the United Nations with its most visible organ: the Security Council. A United Nations that claims to have reformed itself without having brought the Security Council into the twenty-first century will continue to lose authority and credibility in the world.

We have been discussing Security Council reform now for over 15 years. Whatever the differences of opinion may be, there is overwhelming agreement that this reform is necessary and that we need a decision soon. The United Nations membership is also in agreement that reform of the working methods of the Council is not enough and that we need structural reform.

My colleagues in this Hall remember better than a newcomer like me the numerous attempts at reform of the working methods of the Council. Very good suggestions have been made in the context of the Open-ended Working Group and elsewhere, and on a number of recommendations broad agreement has already been reached, but we all know that those initiatives have not been implemented in a satisfactory manner so far. The so-called S-5 proposal on the working methods of the Council has the great merit of concentrating the most pertinent proposals and of creating a coherent approach to that part of reform. To a very large extent, the S-5 suggestions are also included in the G-4 proposal, but while there is compatibility on substance, we still have doubts on procedure. Will the S-5 proposals be effectively implemented if we do not achieve structural reform?

British Prime Minister Tony Blair recently said in a speech that the Security Council in its present form is no longer legitimate. It is also not as effective as it could be. To be legitimate and to be effective, the Security Council must represent the political realities of the twenty-first century; let major stakeholders, on which the implementation of Security Council decisions depends, participate in its decision-making; give the southern hemisphere an adequate say in Security Council matters; and commit to a meaningful reform of its working methods.

All that can be achieved only by a structural reform of the Council by enlargement in the categories of permanent and non-permanent members alike. At the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions of the General Assembly, we have seen that this conviction is shared by a large majority of United Nations Members. Indeed, the proposals now on the table of the General Assembly are all compatible in that sense. On the other hand, the ideas presented by the Uniting for Consensus group at the last session of the General Assembly have not been resubmitted. A general agreement to enlarge only the non-permanent category is not in sight, let alone a consensus, as the name of the group implies. Let us now put the missing pieces of United Nations reform into place and let us together find a way to make that reform reality. While we should all be forward-looking and not dwell on differences of the past, we need to recognize the results of intense interaction and debates of recent years. On that basis and with open-mindedness on all sides, reform can be achieved.

The issue is now to move on the proposals. Together with our partners in the G-4 and all those who have been supportive of Security Council reform in all regional groups, including Africa, we will continue to work to finally transform the fifteen-year discussion of Security Council reform into action. As we have said before, and as I stress again, we remain open to further discussing our reform proposal with all Member States genuinely interested in reform and to considering possible amendments with a view to broadening the basis of support.

**Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt): Today, and at a most appropriate time, the General Assembly has resumed its consideration of one of the most important aspects of United Nations reform: the reform of the Security Council.

In the past few days, the international community has witnessed and continues to witness tragic and regrettable events that clearly threaten international peace and security in many parts of the world — urgent crisis situations that the Security Council has failed to address for many political considerations, resulting mainly from the lack of unanimity among its permanent members, and consequently leading to the paralysis of the Council and its inability to undertake badly needed measures at the most appropriate time. That is why we should always keep in mind the interrelationship that exists between the current impasses in the work of the Security Council, on the one hand, and our efforts to expand the membership and improve the working methods of the Council, on the other.

Egypt is fully committed to the African common position, as outlined today by the Chairman of the African Group, the Permanent Representative of Algeria, and will remain committed to the positions taken and the proposals submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement.

In that connection, Egypt, like many other Member States, has constantly advocated the comprehensive reform of the Security Council. We have underlined again and again the need for the Council to reflect current political realities, with special emphasis on granting developing countries, in particular the African continent, their long-overdue and deserved representation in the permanent and non-permanent categories of Council membership. That is coupled with strong support for all ideas aimed at improving the working methods of the Council and at making it more responsive, transparent and open to the entire membership.

Some of the questions we have to address today relate to whether we attempt to make progress on both tracks, or limit ourselves to merely one track at the expense of the other? Does improving the working methods of the Council constitute a good enough outcome for our discussions? If so, what kind of improvement should we be aiming at and will it be adhered to by the Council?

While we support all endeavours aimed at improving the working methods of the Council, we note that those attempts still fall short of making meaningful changes in the Council's work in the direction of strengthening the principles of transparency and accountability. As we have noticed during the sixtieth session, the Council has increased its attempts to encroach on the prerogatives of the General Assembly. Instead of reflecting on the valid concerns raised by the majority of Member States on that very important issue, the Council has turned a blind eye and continued its attempts to address issues that fall exclusively under the purview of the General Assembly in accordance with the Charter.

Furthermore, many of us have raised valid concerns regarding the process of the selection of the Secretary-General. Those concerns did not and do not aim at undermining the role that the Council and its permanent members play in the selection process. They merely attempt to increase transparency in that process, based on the fact that any Secretary-General is a Secretary-General for the Organization and its entire membership, and not only for the Security Council. We expect serious efforts by the Council to increase the transparency in that process, far beyond informing the membership through the President of the General Assembly of the procedural aspects of the work of the Council on that issue.

In that regard, the General Assembly should also act on its own to develop a mechanism for the consideration of candidates to be recommended by the Security Council for appointment by the Assembly. That Assembly mechanism should include meetings with the candidate, and preferably a straw poll to determine his or her level of acceptability to the Assembly, in order to ensure that the candidate obtains the widest possible support from the entire membership of the Organization and that his or her official appointment by consensus at a later date is a true reflection of a transparent and democratic process.

In the meantime, concepts and suggestions aimed at addressing the question of increasing the membership of the Security Council on an incremental basis merit our consideration. The incremental approach to the expansion of Council membership should in any case fully take into account the legitimate right of Africa to be adequately represented in an expanded Council on the basis of the African common position as recently reaffirmed at the African

summit in the Gambia. Any proposal that falls short of providing Africa with the number and category of seats pursued by the continent will not succeed. In that context, we believe that the African draft resolution sponsored by Egypt on this matter provides for the only viable solution to end the inequity that characterizes the current composition of the Council.

Furthermore, while we support in principle the approach reflected in the draft resolution introduced by the group of five small nations (S-5), we stress the importance of moving simultaneously on the two tracks of reform. We strongly believe that the references contained in that draft resolution regarding the use of the veto are insufficient. The exercise of the veto should not only be curtailed in cases of genocide or massive crimes against humanity, but also must not be allowed in cases where a ceasefire between two belligerent parties is being pursued in any place in the world.

Moreover, we are convinced that the process of selecting the Secretary-General should not be subjected to the veto. We hope that the sponsors of the S-5 draft resolution will expand their consultations on the various aspects of the draft, so as to avoid any controversy and to fully take into account the African position that calls for both the improvement of the working methods of the Security Council and its expansion as parallel processes leading to its comprehensive reform.

The third, and last, question before us today is the future consideration of this issue by the Open-ended Working Group. While we share some of the frustration due to the lack of progress, we still believe that the Open-ended Working Group provides the only viable mechanism to deliberate upon the issue of Security Council reform. We do not support the idea of merely appointing co-chairpersons or facilitators to undertake informal consultations in the absence of a clear intergovernmental process that would allow for all Member States to be part of the process in our continued search for a creative solution that could satisfy all of us.

Finally, we cannot overemphasize the need to make reform and expansion of the Security Council an integral part of the United Nations reform agenda. That need is growing as events unfold throughout the world. Reform of the Council is needed in order to enhance the legitimacy of the Council's decisions and its ability to address the challenges of the twenty-first century more effectively and with a better understanding of the cultural and civilizational aspects of today's problems. Reform is needed so as not to allow individual Member States to implement Security Council resolutions on their own. Reform is needed to make the Council transparent and accountable. We need to ensure that all of us are part of the decision-making process on vital matters relating to international peace and security. Finally, we need a Security Council able to act when it comes to the protection of civilians and children in armed conflict — rather than just holding open debates on the matter, such as the one scheduled for next Monday, while failing to implement the letter and spirit of that protection because of political considerations.

**Mr. Maurer** (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): The final document of the 2005 world summit, which was approved last September by all Member States, highlights the central role of Security Council reform. It also underlines the fact that that reform contains two distinct elements of equal importance, namely, enlargement in the membership of the Security Council and improvement of its working methods.

As part of the follow-up to the summit, Switzerland — together with its partners Costa Rica, Jordan, Singapore and Liechtenstein — prepared a draft resolution on the working methods of the Council. That text (A/60/L.49) was introduced on 17 March 2006 under item 120 of the Assembly agenda.

The measures proposed in the draft resolution are the result of discussions carried out over 10 years in the General Assembly. They concern in particular the following aspects: strengthening transparency in the decision-making process, particularly with regard to the work of the Security Council's subsidiary organs; increasing opportunities for countries that are not members of the Council to be able to participate in its work; intensifying consultations with troop-contributing countries, interested neighbouring States and regional organizations; making better use of experience acquired in the implementation of Council decisions; promoting the responsibility to protect by discouraging as much as possible the use of the veto in cases of genocide or crimes against humanity; establishing fair and clear procedures to enable persons affected by sanctions who believe that sanctions have been wrongly applied to present their points of view;

and facilitating the rapid integration of non-permanent members in the Council's work.

The draft resolution that we have put forth seeks to respond to the expectations of many Member States that would like to be more involved in the work of the Security Council. Those expectations are justified for the following reasons. All Members of the United Nations are concerned about the way in which the Security Council exercises its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. All Member States contribute, according to their capacities, to the financing of peace operations, and many countries contribute troops. All Member States have to implement the decisions taken by the Council under Chapter VII of the Charter.

I would also like to stress that improving the Council's working methods is also very much in the interest of the Security Council itself. By involving all Member States more closely, the Council strengthens not only the effectiveness of its action but also its legitimacy and its authority to act in the name of all.

The five countries responsible for the draft resolution all favour enlarging the Security Council, even though their views on the best model to follow are not identical. All five of us are firmly convinced that the Council must become more representative of the modern world. However, we also consider that the enlargement of the Council and the improvement of its working methods are two distinct goals that should be treated in parallel processes if possible, but separately. Unlike the enlargement of the Security Council, the improvement of working methods would not necessitate an amendment to the Charter of the United Nations. That is an area in which it is possible to achieve rapid progress, in the interest of all Member States of the Organization.

In the context of this important debate, Switzerland wishes to reaffirm and to explain its position with regard to the right of veto.

We realize that any modification of the right to veto would have to follow the tortuous route of an amendment to the United Nations Charter. We also realize that, with or without a veto, the support of the great Powers and their willingness to play an active part are essential to the success of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security. Finally, we acknowledge that the use of the veto has declined considerably since the end of the Cold War. Even so, it is unfortunately still the case that the right to veto continues to be used excessively and in an abusive manner. It is not acceptable that the use of the veto, or the threat to use it, should paralyze the United Nations in cases of genocide and crimes against humanity or in serious crisis situations that require resolute action by the international community.

The following explains the position that Switzerland advocates with regard to the veto in the ongoing debate on Security Council reform.

First, in the framework of improvements to the Security Council's working methods, Switzerland wishes to see rules put in place regarding a more selective use of the veto. Our draft resolution proposes two rules. The first would be to ask permanent members who oppose a draft resolution to explain their motives when they make use of their right of veto. The second would invite the permanent members to refrain from using the veto in situations of genocide, crimes against humanity and serious and systematic violations of human rights or of international humanitarian law. To formulate this rule is simply to translate into concrete terms a central element of the responsibility to protect that was adopted by the Member States at the 2005 world summit. It should be noted that the two rules that I have just mentioned do not affect the substance of the right of veto; and thus they would not necessitate a formal amendment to the Charter.

Secondly, whatever model is adopted for the enlargement of the Security Council, Switzerland, like many other countries, opposes the allocation of new rights of veto, because that would complicate even further the decision-making process within the Council and would pose an increased risk of paralysis.

We regret that in recent years the permanent members of the Security Council have refused to discuss or to act on the problematic aspects of the veto and have not taken seriously their responsibility to protect. This provides ammunition to all those who may think that the right of veto is not linked to a particular responsibility in the area of international peace and security but is simply a privilege that is used to defend particular interests. This contributes to a culture of inactivity in the face of certain crises, a fact that we, together with others, deplore.

Switzerland welcomes the fact that the Security Council reactivated the informal working group on documentation and on working methods last February.

I would like to seize this opportunity to thank Japan for its exemplary commitment in its capacity as chair of the working group. We note with satisfaction that specific measures have been decided, several of which are a direct response to the demands set out in the draft resolution of the group of five small nations — the "Small Five" (S-5). This is a first tangible and important step in the right direction.

We expect the Security Council to continue its work and in the coming months to address a number of other unresolved issues. I would like to mention three aspects that are particularly urgent.

The first is the use of the veto, where it is important and ultimately quite easy to establish the two rules mentioned above.

The second is the improvement of the working of the Council's subsidiary organs, in particular the sanctions committees. The demand for greater transparency and increased participation applies with regard not only to the Council's decision-making process but also to the work of the subsidiary organs. Too often the sanctions committees require a long time — sometimes several years — to take decisions and then do not communicate them, or do not communicate them correctly, to the States concerned. It is in the working of the subsidiary organs that the most serious problems regarding transparency occur, with regard to both the rules and procedures and the decisions taken.

The third area in which improvements need to be made rapidly is that of the procedures for establishing lists of persons and entities targeted by sanctions. It is not only necessary to improve those procedures but also to establish a satisfactory review mechanism that would enable those who claim that their name has been wrongly entered on a list to present their point of view. We hope that the thinking now going on in the Security Council will rapidly lead to tangible improvements.

We continue to believe that the best course of action would be to adopt and to implement the draft resolution that we have proposed. This resolution is legitimate, because it expresses the expectations of a large majority of Member States. It is pragmatic, because it asks the Security Council to consider a series of specific proposals in areas that have proved to be particularly problematic in recent years. It is flexible, because it establishes a framework for reform that can be enlarged or adapted in the course of implementation and because it encourages a dialogue between the Assembly and the Council on a subject of mutual interest. It conforms fully to the Charter, because it respects the distribution of responsibilities between the Assembly and the Council. It is useful, even if there is no absolute unanimity about the measures proposed, because it sends a strong political signal in favour of an improvement of the working methods. Finally, the draft resolution represents a first tangible step towards a more comprehensive reform of the Council. It facilitates discussion on enlargement and thus should be supported by all countries that wish for a comprehensive reform of the Security Council.

To conclude, I welcome once again the fact that the Security Council, following the submission of our draft resolution, has decided to take specific measures to improve its working methods. Switzerland will closely watch the Council's implementation of those measures and will be equally attentive to the manner in which the Council addresses other open issues, such as the use of the veto, the subsidiary bodies and fair de-listing procedures. We are convinced that our draft resolution would facilitate the reform of the Council's working methods. We will continue to follow this question closely together with our partners, while keeping open the option of asking the General Assembly to take action on our draft resolution.

**Mr. Spatafora** (Italy): I wish to join my colleagues in thanking you, Sir, for this opportunity to, we hope, be able to advance the agenda of United Nations reform, including comprehensive reform of the Security Council. I will focus on just a few points, also in my capacity as the focal point for the Uniting for Consensus group.

The time is right for reform and, therefore, for negotiations. Uniting for Consensus is a strong believer in the need for negotiations — negotiations that we have never had. The time is now right for a truly fresh approach, not an exercise that will pretend to have a fresh approach but that at the end of the day will have been just an exercise in window-dressing. If we want to succeed, the negotiations will have to be pragmatic, inclusive and results-oriented, based on flexible positions and following a bottom-up approach, preserving, throughout the process and through non-divisive solutions that we will have sought and agreed upon, ownership by all Member States, be they main players or medium or small countries. Let us not forget that, for example, the small island developing States

alone constitute more than 20 per cent of the membership.

If the political will is there, if all of us come to realize that, after so many years of fruitless positioning, the time is right for at least allowing for an incremental type of reform, a reform that should not prevent further stages of reform in the future, based on more advanced and innovative principles — regional representation as such, for example — then I am sure that our common endeavour, with a win-win approach for everybody, could definitely and finally bring us to a breakthrough. It would thus allow all of us together to fruitfully engage in a process of bridge-building towards a non-divisive agreement on comprehensive reform of the Security Council.

As for today's consultations, I will not reiterate and illustrate here positions that at this point are well-known to everybody. As far as the Unity for Consensus Group is concerned, its positions have been on the record since July 2005, in document A/59/L.68, which was introduced in comprehensive statements by Ambassador Rock of Canada, Ambassador Akram of Pakistan and other colleagues (see A/59/PV.115). Those principles and those positions stand and are as valid today as they were one year ago. I thank my colleague from Germany, Ambassador Matussek, for giving me the opportunity to clarify once more why the Unity for Consensus has not submitted its proposal once more.

We have not submitted it because we did not want to risk the perception that we were injecting a dose of rigidity into the process. We want to facilitate matters, and we felt that re-submitting the draft resolution was not necessary. We want to set aside the "my product is better than yours" approach. I think that if we all just set aside attempts to sell our own approaches for a moment we could really be open-minded. That is the reason why, as we have said several times, we have not submitted something that contains ideas and positions that are as valid today as they were one year ago. I will not elaborate further on them, as I do not wish to duplicate what other colleagues will say.

What I would like to do here is to launch a strong appeal to the entire membership, to all my colleagues, to finally engage in negotiations, with a constructive and flexible approach. I think that it would be wise and would indeed favour a result-oriented approach to reflect along the lines indicated by Secretary-General Kofi Annan some weeks ago in his remarks during the lunch that, through the International Association of Permanent Representatives, we had organized in his honour.

There are three options before us concerning Security Council reform. The first is to do nothing, which everybody will agree is not an option. The second is to go on pursuing what would be, in our view, the optimal model of reform. That approach would imply, as far as substance is concerned, no flexibility in our negotiating positions, or just marginal flexibility. With such an approach, Kofi Annan told us, the result would be that we would go on discussing this for another five, 10 or 15 years. But the fact is that we need to have a more representative, democratic and accountable Security Council which would thus have more credibility and authority now, not 10 or 20 years from now.

That is why we have to seriously consider the third option, which is to focus with a pragmatic approach on the conditions and on those elements that will allow us to have early reform. May I recall that in certain respects a kind of early reform was the one traditionally advocated by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) as a fallback position. What does this kind of reform imply? It implies that we will not have to abandon what we consider to be the optimal reform.

What we will have to do is temporarily sideline from our radar screen of possible reforms those aspects on which, at this particular geopolitical juncture, it has been proved that we cannot succeed in building bridges across the membership at large. It is certain that we cannot afford the luxury of a divisive reform that would leave behind and demotivate one or other sector of the membership, thereby weakening the Organization.

On the contrary, we will have to strengthen in each and every one of us the feeling of pride of belonging to and owning this House. The strengthening of our ownership has to be the benchmark of any reform, and specifically also of a possible early reform, if the strengthening of the Organization is what we are aiming at.

If there is one fundamental principle that should always guide us in our search in good faith for a breakthrough on the issue of Security Council reform, that principle would indeed relate to the need to safeguard, also in this field, our ownership of this

House. We have here a principle that was reaffirmed in the final statement adopted at the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 and China — which is to say the large majority of the membership: 132 countries out of 192 — held at Putrajaya, Malaysia, on 29 May 2006:

> "We affirm that the sovereign equality of Member States, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, must be respected, including throughout the reform process ... . Any attempt ... to exclude some Member States from contributing to the decision-making processes in the Organization contradicts the spirit and letter of the Charter." (*A/60/879, annex, para. 24*)

Along the same lines, Ambassador Kumalo emphasized in the press statement issued on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on 26 April that "The Group of 77 and China believes that the right of every Member State to have an equal say in the decision-making of the Organization must be upheld". It goes without saying that if that fundamental principle, based on the Charter, has to be applied to management reform, it should also apply to other fields of reform. There cannot be selectivity: "We like this principle for management reform, but we do not like it for Security Council reform".

Let us keep this principle at the centre of our aspirations when all of us engage in negotiations with a view to comprehensive Security Council reform. Our motto, should be, like that of migrants in their quest and endeavours for a better future and a better life, "courage, pride, dreams, achievements". That is precisely what this house is all about.

**Mr. Maqungo** (South Africa): We thank you, Ambassador Diarra, for convening this meeting. Our heads of State or Government in September committed themselves to continuing the efforts to achieve an early decision on reform of the Security Council and requested the General Assembly to review the progress thereof. This meeting is in line with that commitment.

The statement made by the Secretary-General that no reform of the United Nations would be complete without the reform of the Security Council remains true. The United Nations Charter has placed a significant responsibility on the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security. That responsibility gives the Council a far-reaching impact on the lives of many people in the world. That fact gives urgency to the efforts to expand and transform the Security Council.

South Africa believes that the objective of reform should be that of creating a Security Council which is truly representative of the membership and able to respond effectively to international crises, as mandated by the Charter of the United Nations.

This debate comes at a time when the threats associated with the current international security environment have exacerbated the difficulties confronting the Security Council. Those threats include, among others, the spread of terrorism and the fear of the use weapons of mass destruction. The crisis in the Middle East also contributes to that instability. However, the manner in which those threats are dealt with within the Council is still far from comprehensive. The exercise of the veto by the five permanent members makes the resolution of those threats a prerogative of the few. Therefore, the reformed Council should be able to address our collective security concerns in an even manner and be accountable to the entire membership of the United Nations.

There are various proposals on this issue and our view is that any proposal that seeks to reform the Security Council has to equally address both the enlargement and the improvement of its working methods. Those two aspects cannot and should not be separated. We need comprehensive reform that will make the Security Council more representative, more effective and more democratic. It is for that reason that my delegation is opposed to any approach that addresses only one element of the reform of the Security Council. Equally, any approach that seeks to differentiate between representation from other regions and representation from Africa will also not be appropriate. Africa has to be represented in the Security Council in the same capacity as other regions.

There have been calls to continue the discussion of the expansion of the Security Council within the Open-ended Working Group. The Working Group was established because Member States recognized the need to reform the Council, but we all know how disappointing it has been that, since its establishment, the Working Group has remained deadlocked, particularly on the vital issue of enlarging the Security Council. Therefore, when the heads of State took the decision to intensify the efforts to resolve that issue as part of the overall reform of the United Nations, they

were aware of the futile discussions in the Open-ended Working Group. By requesting this body to find common ground, the heads of States and Governments recognized that the Open-ended Working Group had outlived its usefulness and that a new reality had to come into place. The General Assembly would therefore be failing in its responsibility if it were to delegate the reform of the Council back to the same Open-ended Working Group.

The African Union summit in Banjul, the Gambia, reaffirmed Africa's demand of two permanent seats with veto rights and five non-permanent seats on the expanded Security Council. Africa's position is informed by the fact that, inter alia, it is the only continent without permanent representation in the Security Council, despite the fact that the agenda of the Council is predominantly Africa-related. However, we are also cognizant of the fact that the decision to reform the Security Council will have to be taken by the General membership of the United Nations. It is for that reason that we welcome this debate because it provides an opportunity for all of us to find common ground on the reform of the Security Council.

My delegation believes that, in the spirit of cooperation, the reform of the Security Council is possible. We hope that the political will displayed during the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council will prevail and enable us to address the imbalance within the Security Council. We, as Member States, have the responsibility to ensure that the Security Council remains the universal vehicle of our efforts in the maintenance of peace and security by taking that bold step to reform it. The time has come to arrest the erosion of the Council's credibility and to seek agreement on the composition and working methods of a reformed Council. Let us create a Security Council that will serve us all in the context of the new geopolitical realities.

**Mr. Oshima** (Japan): I should like to thank you, Sir, for convening today's plenary meeting. As President of the General Assembly Eliasson has continued to emphasize, reflecting the general view and sentiment of delegations, early reform of the Security Council is an essential element of our overall efforts to reform our Organization. In our view, the time for action is long overdue.

Our intensive follow-up work on the outcome document of the world summit has produced some significant results of which we should be proud. We have launched the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council, and adopted the implementing resolution on development. We have achieved partial success on management reform. While further work is necessary on other areas, such as mandate review, it is clear that Security Council reform stands out as the key unfinished institutional reform that we must now be ready to assault for a solution.

In the light of that, today's meeting is timely. It provides a good opportunity to review where we stand, to reaffirm the significance of the issue and to exchange frank views on the way forward. It is again pertinent to recall what Secretary-General Kofi Annan and many others have repeated: No reform of the United Nations would be complete without reform of the Security Council.

As we all know, there are two clusters of issues in Security Council reform: improvement of the working methods of the Security Council and the expansion of its membership.

First, on the working methods, the draft resolution presented by the G-4 countries last year contained specific provisions in that area. The S-5 draft resolution, submitted in March this year by five countries, proposes more ambitious measures. My delegation acknowledges that the S-5 draft resolution captured the wide attention of the Member States seeking improvement of the working methods of the Security Council.

Another development in the working methods issue is the actual work done within the Security Council through its subsidiary body, the Security Council informal working group on documentation and other procedural questions. In my capacity as the Chair of that working group, I wish to report here and now, on behalf of the Security Council members, on the achievements made so far on the joint work to improve the working methods of the Council.

> "The Security Council adopted, on 19 July 2006, a note by the President concerning the improvement of the working methods of the Council. The note is the product of intensive work on the part of the Security Council's informal working group on documentation and other procedural questions over the past several

months. Members of the Council have been actively engaged in those efforts to enhance the efficiency and transparency of the Council's work, as well as its interaction and dialogue with non-Council members as part of the follow-up to the outcome document of the 2005 world summit.

> "Members of the Council have committed themselves to implementing the measures set out in the note. The members of the Security Council will continue to consider ways to improve the working methods of the Council through the informal working group on documentation and other procedural questions."

I would like to add that the note contains, in a consolidated document, those specific and concrete measures which have been newly agreed this time, and those relevant rules, practices and understandings which have been agreed previously and put into practice since 1993. The said note by the President of the Security Council will be distributed shortly as an official document of the United Nations.

Speaking now in my national capacity, we regard the note as a modest but meaningful first step by the Council in the direction of improving its working methods. As the Chair of the working group until the end of the year, I will continue to work with members of the Council to pursue further improvement of its working methods in the implementation of paragraph 154 of the outcome document concerning working methods.

Secondly, on the question of expansion of the membership, we acknowledge that there still exist differences of position as regards the size, scope and modalities of expansion. In order to actually achieve Security Council reform, we need to develop a concrete proposal that overcomes some of those differences and thus is capable of garnering greater support than that afforded the G-4 draft resolution of last year. To that end, while deeply appreciating the support of countries for the G-4 draft, Japan has been conducting a series of intensive consultations with many interested Member States, including those that publicly opposed the G-4 draft resolution last year.

Japan continues to maintain the cooperation framework of the G-4. At this juncture, we are not yet able to offer any new proposal or specific modification to the original G-4 proposal. Nonetheless, we are determined to continue our efforts, believing that the time is approaching to restart the process of serious negotiations with a view to reaching a solution.

In the meantime, the issue of Security Council reform continues to be discussed by various groups and countries, including most recently by the African Member States on the occasion of the African Union summit held in Banjul, the Gambia. Although nothing new seems to have come out of the Banjul summit meeting, we note that African States remain seized of the matter at the level of heads of State. We hope that the time will soon come when all Member States on all sides — African as well as other States with important stakes in that issue — will begin to move actively and positively, with open-mindedness, flexibility and realism, in search of a solution that can enjoy the broad support of the membership.

Earlier this year, Prime Minister Koizumi stated in his policy statement at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, that:

> "We must realize United Nations Security Council reform without delay so that the African voice is heard more in the Security Council. We would like to strengthen collaboration with our African colleagues to this end."

More recently, we have also heard other leaders speak on that issue. We have noted with interest the remarks made by Prime Minister Blair of the United Kingdom in his speech on the matter at Georgetown University. In a recent joint communiqué, the United Kingdom and France expressed their continued support for Brazil, Germany, India and Japan as future permanent members, as well as for permanent seats for Africa. Japan is grateful for that statement of their position. On 29 June 2006, Prime Minister Koizumi and President Bush issued a join document, in which both leaders stated on the matter that:

> "Japan and the United States will intensify their cooperation, and work together in realizing Japan's permanent membership at the Security Council".

Japan is grateful to the United States for that strong support.

There are those, including G-4 countries and their co-sponsors and supporters, who have argued that Security Council reform should be achieved in both the permanent and non-permanent categories. On the basis of that idea, which enjoys the support of quite a

significant number of Member States, we intend to continue dialogue and constructive discussions with other interested States. The outcome of the accelerated progress should be a Security Council that is more broadly representative, efficient and transparent, with enhanced effectiveness and legitimacy.

We fear that if the political will for reform should wane, so too will the support given to our Organization itself diminish. There must be a proposal that is actionable and can enjoy the broad-based support of Member States. I should like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to those who have expressed their valued support for Japan. At the same time, we call on those Member States that support Security Council reform to work together with us to that end. We appeal to all Member States to give new impetus to the debate on Security Council reform. We ask them to reflect on constructive and, perhaps, creative ways to accelerate progress.

Building on the experiences gained during the sixtieth session, we should carry on and continue our deliberations with greater vigour at the sixty-first session, firm in the belief that the time is more than ripe for an important decision on that crucial matter.

**Mr. Zoubi** (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me at the outset sincerely to thank you, Sir, for convening this meeting on an issue of great importance, an issue that warranted many long discussions and negotiations resulting in many ideas regarding Security Council reform through the expansion of its membership and improvement of its working methods.

We know that United Nations reform must be a continuous and dynamic process if it is to address current developments. However, we stress the need to attain clear results that reflect our various consultations and debates in recent years. We see no harm in taking gradual and incremental steps that will lead us to our basic objective. Incremental reform of the Security Council through improving its working methods and expanding its membership can work by separating the issues in such a manner that we may proceed positively and make progress without prejudice to the importance attached to either of the two issues.

Allow me to reiterate the position of the Jordanian Government in support of the expansion of the Security Council's membership in both the permanent and non-permanent categories on a democratic basis. I also wish to stress that the Jordanian Government also remains committed to the relevant proposals and ideas advanced by a group of Member States to the General Assembly during the past two years.

We attach great importance to the issue of reforming the working methods of the Security Council as quickly as possible. Jordan, together with Costa Rica, Liechtenstein and Singapore and with coordination by Switzerland, has put forward a number of specific proposals and ideas to guide the Council with regard to the reform of its working methods. Those ideas are set out in a draft resolution that was submitted several months ago (A/60/L.49). The five countries submitted the draft resolution as a response to the difficulties relating to the expansion effort and the fact that other draft resolutions have not dealt with its methods of work in a comprehensive manner. We believe that it is time to adopt a clear position on procedures and mechanisms so as to optimize the work of the Council and enhance its significant role in the service of the United Nations and the international community as a whole.

Our five countries are not trying to encroach on the Council's mandate. Rather, our initiative reflects our confidence in the importance of its work for the international community and for international law. Given the importance of the elements included in the draft resolution, we hope that they command considerable support among the Members of the United Nations and that the Council will take them into consideration.

The issues of the expansion of the membership of the Council and the reform of its working methods are of equal importance. However, we do not believe that linking them is advisable or that will lead to tangible progress. If we deal with those two issues separately, that could prove effective. If we take the necessary steps to improve the methods of work, that, in turn, could give momentum to the expansion of the membership.

**Mrs. Chassoul** (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): As in earlier debates on this issue, Costa Rica would like to take this opportunity to express its conviction that the Security Council needs comprehensive reform. The task before us is important and cannot be postponed, given that we must ensure that that body — an organ of limited composition — is transparent and democratic and based on the principle of rotation, and

that it has the effectiveness necessary to enable it to act on behalf of all Member States, in strict compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

Since its first meeting, held on 24 January 1946, the Security Council has been developing and consolidating practices and habits that have, unfortunately, worked against the transparency, democracy, rotation and effectiveness that so many Member States are asking for, given the responsibility that members of the Security Council have to act on behalf of everyone.

Although, initially, some initiatives were put forward in an attempt to break with that tendency — leading, in particular, to General Assembly resolution 267 (III), adopted on 14 April 1949 — the Security Council has generally shown a frustrating and truly "Lampedusan" resistance to change, claiming that it wants to alter its practices and habits but failing to do so. The most telling example of that resistance to change is probably the fact that the Council's rules of procedure have still not been adopted, despite the fact that that was the sixth item on the agenda of its first meeting in January 1946.

In order to help the General Assembly to take the initiative once again and to give impetus to the necessary changes in the working methods of the Security Council, the group of five small nations — the "Small Five" (S-5) — consisting of Jordan, Liechtenstein, Singapore, Switzerland and my country, Costa Rica, submitted draft resolution A/60/L.49. Costa Rica endorses absolutely the comments of Ambassador Peter Maurer of Switzerland in discussing the draft resolution — the first of its kind since resolution 267 (III) of 1949 — as well as those of the representative of Jordan.

Costa Rica is not motivated in its desire to reform the working methods of the Security Council by any national interest or wish for particular benefit. We are seeking a reform that brings equal, concrete benefits for all, regardless of our condition. It should lead to shared gains, not to a zero-sum situation. We believe that this is the only reform that is of everyone, by everyone and for everyone.

We have seen with interest the work done by the informal Security Council working group on documentation and procedure. It is a source of great satisfaction to us that the measures are being adopted in response to the S-5's initiative. Although we welcome them, we feel that those measures are insufficient and unsatisfactory.

First, the working group on documentation has not taken any decision regarding the presentation of reports and briefings. The presentation of reports every six months — which, for the moment, is just a suggestion; it has not been agreed to — does not in and of itself guarantee that briefings will be better. The current format of such reports is not very analytical; it is superficial and bureaucratic and designed to obscure the work of the Council, rather than to make it clearer.

We believe that it is essential — as resolution A/60/L.49 makes clear — for the Security Council to present thematic analytical reports on all current subjects, including, in particular, every time it establishes or concludes a peacekeeping operation and every time it imposes or changes a sanctions regime.

Secondly, the working group does not offer any solutions for dealing with the lack of transparency and accountability of the Council's subsidiary bodies. In particular, it does not resolve issues of lack of due process and fundamental guarantees in the work of the sanctions committees.

Nor has the working group responded to the need to create a true dialogue with the other Members of the Organization. As draft resolution A/60/L.49 makes clear, it is imperative that we establish a permanent consultative mechanism between the Security Council and the other States in order to include the contributions and needs of the latter in the decision-making process.

Finally, the Working Group has not addressed the problem of the veto. It is high time that reason prevail and that we move towards a regulation of the veto, with a view to its eventual elimination. As stated by the representative of a permanent member at the 192nd plenary meeting of the General Assembly, held on 13 April 1949,

(*spoke in English*)

> "We must reject the idea that if unanimity fails, the will of one, however arbitrary, prevails over the will of many, however reasonable. The unanimity principle cannot work where agreement is offered only on condition that the will of the most intransigent members must prevail." (*A/PV.192, p. 16*)

(*spoke in Spanish*)

With regard to this particular point, the use of the veto in cases of genocide, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law is unjustifiable and constitutes actual complicity in such criminal acts. Draft resolution A/60/L.49 urges the permanent members of the Council to abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter and to refrain from exercise of the veto in cases that so clearly contravene the lofty common goals of this Organization.

Some delegations have stated that the General Assembly is not competent to discuss the draft resolution presented by the S-5. Not only does practice belie this, but I would kindly invite those delegations to re-read Article 10 of the Charter, which states:

> "The General Assembly may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the present Charter".

The limitation contained in Article 12 of the Charter relates strictly to time-frames and aims to avoid any situation in which the same subject would be considered simultaneously by both bodies. However, it does not extend to an abstract subject of general interest to both bodies, such as the issue of working methods.

Draft resolution A/60/L.49 is a polite, cautious and respectful invitation to the Security Council to make changes that would be of benefit to all. We believe that it is high time that the General Assembly send an unequivocal message to the Security Council that it cannot continue operating without greater transparency, democracy, rotation and effectiveness.

**Mr. Majoor** (Netherlands): I wish at the outset to thank President Eliasson for having convened this meeting of the General Assembly, thereby providing us with another opportunity to discuss Security Council reform.

I would like to use this occasion to make a few remarks based on views which I share with the Ambassador of the Bahamas, along with whom I have the privilege of serving as Vice-Chairman of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council. These observations have arisen from our consultations with many delegations over the past few months.

As the debate today reflects, a majority of Member States believe that reform of the Security Council is an integral and crucial part of the overall United Nations reform agenda. Now that we are making steady progress on reform issues, the feeling is widely shared that it is time to look at the remaining assignments of the World Summit Outcome document, including Security Council reform.

Despite the growing call to deal with this reform issue, many diverging factors continue to complicate realization of Security Council reform. Some countries think the implementation of other reforms is more important at this moment. Others think the issue is too divisive. Others, although not many, are quite satisfied to maintain the current status quo.

In addition, there is another factor that is perhaps less often expressed but nonetheless deeply felt. Many Member States want to change the current composition and adapt the power structure to better reflect geopolitical realities. But they seem to be hesitant to do so in a static way: by replacing the present structure with a new, fixed power structure. Any solution should, from that perspective, reflect the fact that the world is dynamic and that today's likely candidates for a permanent seat could be different ones tomorrow.

Following from this, there is — as we see it — a growing interest in the idea of pursuing a transitional solution. Such a solution would enable some countries and underrepresented regions to assume increased responsibility for world affairs. The solution would not be an immutable arrangement, but one which may last for, say, 10 years. As such, it would considerably lower the stakes and could thus lead to greater flexibility and readiness to compromise on the substantive modalities of the reform.

One such modality is the choice whether or not to increase the number of permanent seats. Some continue to believe that the power balance in the Council can be altered only by adding new permanent members. Others believe that adding permanent members would only exacerbate the problem of decision-making. In an interim arrangement, members could serve in the Council on a longer-term basis, say five years, with the possibility of a renewal of their seats. Their longer-term presence could increase their clout in the Council.

Their contribution would be important, and it would provide them with an opportunity to exemplify their aspirations to eventually become a permanent member.

Another outstanding issue remains the right to the veto power. It is hard to imagine any solution that would involve the veto power's extension to new Council members at this point. At the same time, many countries, for different reasons, wish the veto power issue to remain on the agenda. It could be part of a temporary solution to include a path of discussions on that very issue, culminating in a thorough review after, let us say, the 10-year period.

When discussing an adaptable arrangement, other difficult questions obviously remain. What is the number of seats that will keep the Council both effective and efficient, and yet make it more representative of the larger membership? Some consider a number around 25 as the minimum required to cater to enough countries and to ensure that all regions would support the reform. Others believe that a figure around 20 is a maximum. A temporary or transitional arrangement could either make the ultimate choice between these two options, or take a more gradual approach. Some argue that we could start at the lower end, while keeping the option of adding more when the temporary solution will be reviewed.

As stated, it has proven to be very difficult to find a permanent solution to the reform of the Security Council. Many years of discussions in the Open-ended Working Group and a World Summit followed by a year of debates and consultations have not yet brought about a model that can count on a strong majority in the General Assembly.

The option of a solution of a temporary nature is coming to the forefront more and more. Prime Minister Blair has made references to that approach, as has the Secretary-General on various recent occasions. Indeed, the Secretary-General advised us in a speech in Rome: "Find a way to reach a compromise to get you to the Council table, and from there, you continue your search for a permanent solution." While the proposed permanent arrangements are still on the table in the form of draft resolutions, it might indeed be useful to also look together more closely at a transitional arrangement, where the chances of a broad agreement may be better and therefore the necessary adaptation may be realized sooner. During the interim period, discussions can and should continue on finding a durable solution.

Allow me to say a few words on the Security Council's working methods. During our consultations the Vice-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group discerned that the majority of Member States see great virtue in reforming those methods. Such reform could be an important avenue for making the Council more transparent, inclusive and effective.

The Security Council yesterday endorsed a presidency's note on this topic. The note contains a set of measures to enhance the efficiency and transparency of the Council's work as well as the interaction and dialogue with non-Council members. The recent work in the Security Council Working Group followed the initiative of the group of five small nations — the "Small Five" (S-5) — which has greatly contributed to the debate with the introduction of its draft resolution. Both tracks have been described as processes. Certainly the presidency's note, a welcome first step, leaves further work to be done. It is my feeling that a large majority of the General Assembly would find it beneficial if some form of convergence of these two processes could ultimately be found.

In sum, today's debate proves that the issue of Security Council reform is alive. We should continue the discussion on the working methods of the Council. It is our belief that it would also be useful to inject the idea of an interim or transitional arrangement on enlargement into our consultations, debates and perhaps in negotiations. If we are daring, we can be creative. And if we are creative, we can achieve results.

**Mr. Somoza** (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): First, I would like to thank the President for convening this meeting, which enables us to debate the reform of this main body of the United Nations, the Security Council. The Council has the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security and acting on behalf of all Member States in carrying out the necessary functions to meet this responsibility.

The United Nations was created in a world that was very different from the world we live in today. Given the changes in international relations and the significant increase in the number of Members, particularly developing countries, the various main bodies of the Organization, despite the lack of formal amendments to provisions of the Charter, have nevertheless undergone significant changes in their

ways of working, of understanding and exercising their powers, and of functioning as they have adapted to modern times. The Security Council is one of the main bodies, and it has been no exception to this adaptation.

However, the number of States Members of the Organization has almost quadrupled since 1945, and this increase has not been reflected in the composition of the Council. The Council increased from 11 to 15 members via an amendment to the Charter that was approved by the General Assembly in 1963, when there were 113 Members. Now we have 192 Member States, and we feel that a new expansion of Council membership is indispensable to make that body more representative. That necessarily would give it more effectiveness, transparency and, especially, legality with regard to the decisions it takes in representation of all States.

Fifteen years of discussions and debates among the membership of the United Nations have not enabled us to reach agreement on either the nature or the content of this reform. We urge that the expansion of the membership better reflect current geopolitical realities, allowing more equitable and democratic representation of developing countries in both categories — permanent members and non-permanent members — and taking into account the agreements that the regional groups may achieve with regard to those aspects of the reform that affect their particular region. This expansion should be designed to increase the capacity to respond to global threats and challenges with a Council that would have strengthened authority and effectiveness.

The search for consensus is essential if we are to achieve that goal. During this session various draft resolutions have been presented, which shows us the current differences. But it also shows us areas of convergence. My Government supports the beginning of negotiations to unify criteria that would enable us to come to a vote in September or October, if possible.

Aspects other than the expansion of the Council should also be dealt with, such as strengthening the improvement of the working methods, which would help to strengthen the Council's effectiveness and efficiency, as well as revising the decision-making process.

In conclusion, we would like to say that consensus is fundamental for finalizing positions that give greater strength to the United Nations system as a whole. But those positions must not weaken or polarize Member States, and they must work towards creating a Security Council that is more stable and more representative and in accordance with international reality.

**Mr. Barriga** (Liechtenstein): We appreciate this opportunity to address Security Council reform in all its aspects, given the continued high importance of this topic for the overall reform agenda of the United Nations. We agree that United Nations reform will not be complete unless it encompasses Security Council reform. This is a good moment to revert to this topic, after having taken decisions on numerous other important reform topics, including the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council, and after recent efforts on management reform.

We attach equal importance to the questions of enlargement and working methods, in line with the World Summit Outcome. That, however, does not mean that the two issues need to be addressed simultaneously. Having dealt with the complex topic of Security Council reform in a rather intense manner in the past, and particularly during 2005, we have come to the conclusion that the Organization will benefit greatly by addressing working methods first, thereby creating the necessary momentum for enlargement and treating the two topics with the same level of intensity. It is against that background that we submitted the draft resolution (A/60/L.49) of the group of five small nations (S-5), composed of Costa Rica, Jordan, Singapore, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. As the Assembly is aware, the S-5 draft resolution has been on the table for quite some time, so this is a good moment for us to take stock.

First, we note with appreciation the strong support that many States have expressed in principle. That support confirmed our view that there is a strong need for reform of the working methods of the Security Council, and that the General Assembly has a catalytic role to play in that respect. The fact that using the word "encroachment" has somewhat become the flavour of the season makes it clear that a more balanced relationship between the Security Council and the membership at large is indeed what most States wish for.

The S-5 draft resolution addresses precisely that question. Our initiative aims at creating a more

constructive and cooperative climate and at preventing antagonistic discussions such as those that took place over the past few months. We do not think that competence and power within the United Nations are a pie that can be evenly divided between the two most important organs. Quite the opposite: improving the relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council will make both organs stronger and more relevant. We believe, however, that the efficiency of the Security Council is one of if its biggest assets. But if Security Council activities were more consistently guided by the principles of accountability and legitimacy, as called for in the World Summit Outcome, its efficiency would not need to suffer. At the same time, however, its effectiveness would improve as a result of better implementation of Security Council decisions by Member States.

The Security Council has revitalized its working group on documentation, thereby itself acknowledging that change is needed. Reform from within is the ideal solution. We very much appreciative the work carried out by Ambassador Oshima of Japan as Chairman of the group. We had hoped that the outcome of the working group would have been available sooner, in order that comments about it could have been made during this debate. That would have contributed to a more informed discussion of where we stand. Our views are therefore only preliminary. We nevertheless note with satisfaction that the S-5 initiative has already had a positive impact. We hope that it will continue to do so, as there is a continued need for parallel supportive action by the General Assembly.

The importance of the reform of working methods cannot be overstated. At a time when the Security Council has dramatically expanded its field of activities and more and more relies on the political will of Member States to effectively implement its decisions on increasingly complex and far-reaching topics, a stronger reflection of the views of States that are not members of the Council is a necessity, and ultimately is in the interest of the Council itself.

As far as enlargement is concerned, quite a while ago we concluded that none of the proposals currently on the table would really succeed. Our understanding of success in that context is very strong political and numerical support that goes beyond what is legally required. We therefore need new ideas, and possibly new alliances and a stronger role for States and other actors that do not have an immediate interest in the difficult question of Security Council reform. There must be an open and sober discussion — indeed, negotiations, as has been called for by a number of speakers today — of all aspects of Security Council enlargement and the concepts of size and permanency, including in ways deviating from the ones currently established in the Charter.

More than anything else, that requires openness on the part of the proponents of the models currently on the table. Such discussions would have to be conducted under the auspices of someone who does not belong to any side. The President of the General Assembly is of course a natural first choice, but there are other possibilities. We hope that such a process can be initiated soon, because we need a modern Security Council that reflects the geopolitical realities of today, rather than those of 1945.

**Mr. Bodini** (San Marino): Ninety days ago we exchanged views on the reform of the Security Council. Since then, the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission have begun to operate. The United Nations reform momentum is on the roll; let us not stop now. It is obvious to us and to the vast majority of other Member States that an enlarged and more representative Council is in our best interest.

We appreciate the effort reflected in the draft resolution introduced by the group of five small nations (A/60/L.49). We believe that it is an important step towards the improvement of the working methods of the Council. But certainly it is not enough.

We are at a chilling and unproductive standstill, while impatience and mistrust are brewing among Member States. Why do we not attempt to negotiate with an open mind and, more important, with the resolve to succeed? We must find the courage to mediate this crucial reform so that everyone is at least partially satisfied. At this point we have two choices: either to continue with the existing Security Council or to create a more viable one. That choice is up to us. San Marino is committed to speedily advancing a reform of the Security Council that is fair to all 192 Member States.

**Mr. Chaudhry** (Pakistan): We are meeting once again to discuss the reform of the Security Council, which is an issue of vital interest to all Member States. The 2005 world summit supported the reform of the Security Council in order to make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent, and thus to

further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions. World leaders also recommended that the Security Council continue to adapt its working methods, enhance its accountability to the membership and increase the transparency of its work. We are fully committed to working with all Member States to achieve those objectives.

Following the summit, the Assembly discussed Security Council reform in November last year. A report to review progress, as required by the Summit, was submitted by the President in December. Subsequently, in April this year, the issue was also deliberated upon in the Assembly's Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council. Informal consultations and the promotion of different reform proposals, both on enlargement and on working methods, have continued in various formats in parallel. New scheme ideas, particularly on the issue of enlargement, have also been informally floated and tested. The present debate is a good opportunity to take stock of the progress made on the issue and to chart the course for the future.

Security Council reform is an issue of vital national interest to all United Nations Member States. It is not surprising that, while decisions have been possible on other United Nations reform issues, we continue to search for agreement on the vital issue of Security Council reform. Indeed, Council reform has been under consideration for several years. To be effective and operational, Security Council reform should be the outcome of open and transparent consultations and negotiations should be accepted by consensus or by the widest possible agreement. Any decision promoted through self-centred initiatives, artificial deadlines and pre-emptive vetoes will be divisive and likely to be stillborn.

Security Council reform must be comprehensive. It should cover both enlargement and working methods. Indeed, several smaller Member States have declared that improving the working methods of the Council, greater transparency and accountability to the general membership are more important for them than the issue of enlarged membership. The proposal of the group of five small nations (S-5) has evoked broad support. Within the Security Council, also, consideration is being given to ways and means to improve transparency and working methods. We welcome these developments. We hope that consultations on the S-5 and related proposals, including those suggested by Pakistan, will yield agreement on significant improvement in the Security Council's working methods. These proposals should be incorporated in the eventual decision for comprehensive reform of the Security Council.

Pakistan and the Uniting for Consensus group fully endorse the view that the composition of the Security Council should be enlarged to make it more representative. Such greater representativeness will not result merely from adding a few self-nominated "new Powers" as additional permanent members of the Security Council. Indeed, those Powers themselves argue that the decisions of the Council lack legitimacy because of the overwhelming influence of the existing five permanent members. But they offer the counter-intuitive solution of adding more permanent members in the Council. Without veto rights, such permanent membership is unlikely to change the power realities in the Council. Even if it does, the vital national interests of the rest of the United Nations membership will continue to be unrepresented and therefore ignored in the work and decisions of the Council's new and enlarged oligarchy. It will not make the Council more democratic or representative.

Moreover, the new power realities of our world, 60 years after the establishment of the United Nations, are more complex. Those realities are not merely the emergence of four or five new Powers on the world stage. There are, in fact, a score or more States which are today in a position, politically, militarily, and economically, to contribute more fully and actively to the maintenance of international peace and security. For instance, the self-nominated candidates for permanent membership do not include the two largest troop contributors for United Nations peacekeeping operations. All such States deserve more frequent representation on the Security Council.

The new realities also encompass the emergence of a host of smaller States, which make up the vast majority of the United Nations membership. Their adequate representation on the Council is essential, not only to reflect and preserve their national interests but to bring their perspectives, which are often more closely aligned with the principles of the United Nations Charter than those of larger States with specific national interests and objectives that often cut across the Charter's principles and purposes.

The Uniting for Consensus group's proposal for reform of the Security Council, which has once again been eloquently outlined by the representative of Italy and other Uniting for Consensus members, constitutes an honest effort to secure a genuinely representative enlargement of the Security Council, an enlargement that could reflect the world's new realities in all their complexity. Our proposal would make it possible for each region to devise its own arrangements to ensure the representation of the large, medium and small States in an enlarged Security Council. It could accommodate the representation of regional and subregional groupings of States. This flexibility to accommodate the different and specific circumstances of each region and subregion is the principal virtue of the Uniting for Consensus proposal.

On the other hand, we understand the African position that seeks not permanent members but permanent seats for the African region. That is more in concert with the Uniting for Consensus proposal of enabling the regions to determine their own representation on the Council. We are ready to work with Africa and with Member States of other regions to promote an equal and non-discriminatory approach for all regional groups with regard to their representation on the Council.

One of the prime reasons for the stalemate on Security Council reform is the lack of serious and constructive negotiations. We have of course discussed and deliberated this issue in debates and statements, but mostly as a monologue in which we maintain our respective positions. The much needed dialogue has been missing. The Uniting for Consensus group therefore favours a constructive, inclusive, consensus approach to find a non-divisive solution based on the principle of equal participation of all Member States, be they big, medium or small in size.

There are areas of agreement on which we can build: the need for greater transparency and accountability in the working methods of the Council; the need for an enlarged membership, within a range that is widely accepted; the need to reflect new global realities and to secure equitable representation in the Security Council for all United Nations Member States; and the legitimate aspirations of various regions for a more equitable representation and role in the Security Council.

Let me stress again that the Uniting for Consensus group's approach is constructive and flexible. It seeks to promote the common interest, not just the national interests of a few States. It seeks consensus or the broadest possible agreement. And it is consistent with the basic principles and spirit of the United Nations Charter.

**Mrs. Núñez Mordoche** (Cuba): The Security Council requires urgent and profound reform. At the same time, Council reform cannot be an end in itself, because not even a reformed Security Council will be sufficient to ensure international peace and security. We firmly believe that the reform of the Council will be one step in the difficult and complex process of building a world order which can guarantee humanity the full exercise of its fundamental rights. Cuba considers that reform of the Council is a central aspect of United Nations reform. We cannot speak of true reform of the Organization until there is genuine reform of the Security Council guaranteeing that that organ will act in the interests of Member States, on whose behalf, according to the Charter, it must act.

With its composition and working methods, the Security Council is efficient only in protecting the interests of some of its permanent members. Moreover, when the hegemonic interest of one of its members has prevailed, as happened in the aggression against Iraq, the Council has been ignored and then obliged to accept the humiliation of a plundering war to which the majority of its members were opposed.

The Council is not a democratic, equitable or representative organ. Many of us are concerned about that fact that, while efforts are being made to establish accelerated time lines to address other reform issues, such as mandate review and managerial reform, and while new bodies such as the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission are being set up, reform of the Security Council continues in effect to be sidelined. We all know that there exists a minority group of countries that has no interest in progress towards true reform of the Council because they benefit from the current status quo. However, the vast majority of Member States attach the highest priority to such reform. That majority position cannot be ignored.

Cuba supports a Security Council reform process that is based on a broad and integrated approach that address both issues pertaining to expansion and the

working methods of the Council. Those matters should not be artificially separated and dealt with in a fragmented way, for they are closely interrelated.

With regard to expansion, we would like to reiterate our position in favour of expansion of Council membership in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership. Cuba does not favour creating additional categories of Security Council membership. The basic goal of expansion should be to correct the insufficient representation of African, Asian and Latin American developing countries in the Council. The fact that developing countries lack adequate representation on the Security Council is to the detriment of the Council's own interest, authority and credibility. As a minimum, permanent membership should be granted to two African countries, two Asian developing countries and two Latin American countries. The composition of the Council would thus more accurately reflect the equitable geographic distribution to which we aspire. The newly created seats should have exactly the same privileges as the ones enjoyed by current members, without selective or discriminatory criteria being established. All new permanent members should join the Council at the same time. Since, at the moment, it does not seem possible to eliminate the anachronistic and anti-democratic power of the veto, new permanent members should also have the power to exercise the veto under the same conditions as the current permanent members.

The reform of the Security Council cannot be limited solely to an increase in the number of its members. It must also include a profound change in the Council's current working methods, in order to bring about true institutional transparency in its work and decision-making and a return to the functions established by the Charter. My country is deeply concerned about the Security Council's growing tendency to consider subjects and assume functions that are not within its purview, thereby usurping the role conferred by the Charter upon other bodies, especially the General Assembly.

The so-called changes made in recent years to the Security Council's working methods are in fact more of form than substance. Reality shows us that when it comes to subjects of particular importance, the permanent members — although not always all of them — continue to carry out their own rounds of negotiations behind closed doors. Fundamental decisions are often adopted outside the framework of the United Nations, and are then presented as a fait accompli to the rest of the Council members — to say nothing of the other Members of the United Nations.

We believe that the General Assembly's Open-ended Working Group on Security Council reform is the ideal framework to fully consider the various proposals that have been or will be presented, regarding Council reform, including the three draft resolutions that have been formally introduced. The delegation of Cuba finds it totally unsatisfactory that the Group has met just once this year. That situation is completely different from that of other aspects of United Nations reform, where there have been, and continue to be, frequent meetings in various formats. We propose that the Working Group carry out a programme of meetings and exchanges during the remainder of this year, with a view to making progress in the process.

Security Council reform cannot continue to be dealt with as a matter apart from the rest of the reform process of the Organization. Cuba calls for the reform of the Council to be the result of a broad process of consultations and negotiations. We will oppose any attempt to impose artificial deadlines in an effort to force decisions on proposals that are based on cosmetic rather than genuine changes. Proposals that do not guarantee truly in-depth and comprehensive reform of the Council will not have Cuba's support. My delegation is prepared to participate actively in this exercise and to contribute specific proposals.

**Mr. Salgueiro** (Portugal): First and foremost, I would like to start by thanking the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting. Throughout the current session of the General Assembly, several important measures and decisions have been adopted in the reform process of our Organization. Much of the credit for what we have achieved in implementing the decisions taken by our leaders last September goes to the President of the General Assembly. With his perseverance and leadership, we are responding gradually and successfully to an unprecedented challenge for a much-needed renewal of the United Nations. We have just concluded part of the management reform of the Organization. It is time now to regain focus on the political issues, and one of the most significant political issues that still needs to be addressed is undoubtedly the reform of the Security Council.

The need for Security Council reform and for adapting the international organ responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security to the realities of today's world is broadly endorsed among the international community. In December 2004, the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change acknowledged that "the paucity of representation from the broad membership diminishes support for Security Council decisions" (*A/59/565, para. 245*) and that there was a need to "bring into the decision-making process countries more representative of the broader membership, especially of the developing world" (*Ibid., para. 249 (b)*). The Secretary-General, in his report entitled "In larger freedom", reaffirmed that "no reform of the United Nations would be complete without reform of the Security Council" (*A/59/2005, para. 169*).

Following those two landmark reports, three draft resolutions on the question of Security Council reform were introduced in the General Assembly during its fifty-ninth session. In addition, a number of Member States declared their commitment to Council reform and put forward their concrete ideas on that issue. In September 2005 our heads of State and Government considered early reform of the Security Council an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations.

Allow me once again just to briefly reiterate the principles that, in our opinion, should guide efforts to make Security Council reform a reality.

First, reform must comprise concrete and ambitious proposals in both domains: enlargement and working methods. We fully understand and accept that in many circumstances the Security Council needs to work with discretion, but the Council acts on behalf of the international community and we all have to feel we have a stake in its deliberations. The fact is that a working culture has developed throughout the years in the relationship between the Security Council and the membership at large, as well as with the Secretariat, for which the Charter did not provide. That working culture has been a source of criticism, causing a widespread sense of frustration among Member States.

We therefore see merit in the initiatives aimed at making the working methods of the Security Council more open, transparent and inclusive, in particular the draft resolution introduced by the group of States known as the small five. We also recognize that, if implemented properly, the recently approved outcome of the Council's informal working group on documentation and other procedural questions would constitute progress in the right direction. But we believe that decisive improvement in the status quo demands action through joint structural and working methods reforms. Expansion and working methods are two sides of the same coin.

Secondly, expanding the Security Council to provide for more and better representation of the wider membership should take place through enlargement of the two existing categories of membership, the permanent and the non-permanent. Maintaining the stricture against immediate re-election of non-permanent members improves the chances of serving on the Council for the vast majority of the membership, which is comprised of more than 100 small and medium-sized States. Enlarging the Security Council along these lines will pave the way for redressing current imbalances in membership through the increased presence of developing countries in both categories and through Africa's accession to permanent membership.

Thirdly, on the question of the veto, Portugal's long-standing position is that the requirement for concurring votes, established in Article 27, paragraph 3 of the Charter, should not be expanded beyond the current permanent members of the Security Council.

Portugal believes that, whatever reforms we manage to undertake, a review exercise should take place at a given moment in the future — for instance in 15 years — in order to assess the merits of the reforms and their impact in the work of the Organization.

Finally, we think that the time for the reform of the Security Council is now. The momentum initiated in the summer of 2005 should therefore not be lost. That is why we believe that progress towards that goal would better be made early in the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

**Ms. Ström** (Sweden): During this unprecedented session of the General Assembly we have taken a number of important steps to reform the United Nations. Those decisions will strengthen our ability to cope with current global threats and challenges. The 2005 High-level Meeting clearly spelled out the need for early reform of the Security Council in order to make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent, as part of the overall effort to reform the

United Nations. We therefore very much welcome today's debate.

Sweden has called for the reform of the Security Council since the early 1990s. For the Security Council to remain the primary body in our collective security system, its legitimacy and effectiveness must be assured. Sweden believes that the Council should be expanded to include new members, allowing for stronger representation from regions such as Africa, Asia and Latin America. Any reform of the Council membership should, however, be subject to an effective review mechanism.

The Security Council must be an effective body that can act quickly and in a transparent way. We therefore believe that the power of the veto should not be extended to new members. Instead, a veto-free culture should be promoted.

Furthermore, the Security Council's working methods, its transparency and its dialogue with other United Nations bodies must be strengthened. We welcome the continued efforts to that end by the delegations of Costa Rica, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Singapore and Switzerland, as well as the decision taken by the Council yesterday on measures to improve its working methods.

We must move forward. We now need to show flexibility and an open mind and seek solutions that can garner broad support. I can assure the Assembly that Sweden will continue to engage actively in a constructive dialogue on how to reform the Security Council.

**Mr. Outlule** (Botswana): The delegation of Botswana extends its deep gratitude to the President for convening a meeting on the crucially important issue of the reform of the Security Council.

In September 2005 the heads of State and Government not only pronounced their support for early reform of the Security Council; most important, they also declared it an essential element of overall efforts to reform the United Nations. In other words, we cannot pick and choose. Reforms must be broad, deep, comprehensive and meaningful.

The Chairman of the African Group — my colleague and brother Ambassador Youcef Yousfi of Algeria — has ably articulated the African common position on this matter. His statement has the full support of my delegation.

Africa has made a just demand to be represented in the Security Council on a permanent basis. That deserves serious consideration. The Council is the only organ empowered by Member States under the Charter to maintain international peace and security. Africa has obligations and an international responsibility to contribute to that noble objective.

The maintenance of international peace and security is not a matter of political and diplomatic prestige; it is a huge responsibility. It cannot, and should not, be the responsibility of a few. Africa therefore demands, as a matter of principle, to be permanently represented at the horseshoe table and to contribute to the search for solutions to problems that pose threats to our common security.

We are not demanding representation for Africa alone. We fully support the legitimate proposals by Brazil, Germany, India and Japan to be considered for permanent membership. We are strongly convinced that those countries have the capacity and commitment to contribute to strengthening the Security Council. We also strongly support the legitimate demands of other Member States for a Security Council that is more open and transparent in its working methods. Non-members of the Council, in particular small States, can bring new ideas that reflect the conscience of humankind if they have a greater insight into the Council's work.

Today we know more than ever before that peace and security are indivisible. An act of terrorism in some remote and wretchedly poor corner of the world has implications for security in the most affluent parts of our planet. We recognize that each and every one of us must do their best to combat terrorism and prevent acts of terrorism. The activities of terrorist groups have grave security implications for nations large and small, rich and poor, powerful and weak. In our approach to the question of the Security Council reform we must therefore be united by our common humanity and commitment to do good, to continuously and persistently build a more peaceful and better future for all.

The maintenance of international peace and security is a shared responsibility. It requires partnership, cooperation and mutual support among the nations of the world. It takes a village to find solutions to the most intractable problems. The delegation of Botswana therefore cannot understand why anyone would refuse the offer of assistance and support and

greater participation in addressing global security concerns. Issues of peace and security are complex. It is not merely a matter of the outbreak of war or the absence of it; it is more and far greater than that. It is about a better life in all its aspects on this planet.

The world is unanimous that democracy and good governance are global imperatives of our time. There can be no justification for demanding democracy at the national level while at the same time denying the right to democratize international institutions. It should be a source of embarrassment that here at the United Nations there is still poverty and drought as regards democracy and the yearning for a more representative Security Council, one that reflects global realities.

The reform of the United Nations should epitomize our collective aspirations for a universal and democratic dispensation. An increase in the membership should strengthen, not weaken, the Security Council. Democracy and good governance are a source of strength. The decisions of a Security Council that is more representative, inclusive and transparent would enjoy greater legitimacy, credibility and moral authority.

Forty-two years ago, in 1964, the third Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, while delivering a statement on the theme "Changing world: new burdens and responsibility — strengthening the United Nations" said,

> "when we talk about strengthening the United Nations it is not from a point of view of seeking new power or greater glory but because this is an urgent necessity if the Organization and its members are not to be crushed by the great and actual responsibilities and challenges which our times have put upon them".

The reform of the Security Council is an urgent necessity. Its decisions are binding on all the 192 Member States. Yet it has only 15 members, five of whom wield the power of the veto. The status quo has no justification on the grounds of efficiency and effectiveness. That would be tantamount to justifying dictatorship or one-party-state rule on the grounds that a democratically elected parliament would be unwieldy or dysfunctional. Those are discredited ideas that have long been consigned to where they rightfully belong: the garbage bin of history.

The delegation of Botswana fully appreciates that permanent membership in the Council comes with immense responsibilities. It is not a matter of political and diplomatic prestige; it is for a higher purpose. Botswana fully recognizes that not all Member States can be represented in an expanded Security Council. Botswana is therefore willing to be represented by some of our brothers from Africa and by the wider international community who are prepared to shoulder these heavy responsibilities. Botswana stands ready to do its part as a Member of the United Nations.

Sixty years ago some countries could do without the Security Council, but today no country or nation can afford to exist in a world without it. We all need each other to address the global challenges of this millennium, such as terrorism and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Let me conclude by expressing the hope of the delegation of Botswana that Member States will have the courage to move forward in reforming the Security Council for the common good. There should be no entrenched national positions, because national interests are interconnected with global peace and security interests. In the field of peace and security there are no national interests. There are only common challenges, which require our collective efforts to overcome them. Therefore, let there be no room for procrastination and prevarication. Let us together move the reform of the Security Council forward, with a sense of urgency and a constructive spirit. Let us collectively strengthen and revitalize our global security architecture by including new permanent members. Our success in this great enterprise will not be the crowning or glorification of any State or nation. It will be the triumph of diplomacy and multilateralism.

**Mr. De Rivero** (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): After 11 years if paralysis, reforming the composition of the Security Council took on unprecedented momentum in the first half of 2005. Even the Secretary-General became involved. In his report entitled "In larger freedom" (A/59/2005), he proposed that a decision regarding the composition of the Council be taken before the holding of last September's summit, regardless of whether that were a consensus decision or not. Despite the fact that consultations are continuing, the outcome has been that we have reformed nothing.

Why has the Council not been changed? Simply because this is a subject that affects the distribution of world power. The truth is, if we look back through history, world power has been changed only as a result of great geopolitical cataclysms: wars, the overextension of empires and economic and technological decadence. The great Powers are not elected; they are born of history.

This lack of realpolitik in the approach to Security Council reform has probably been the main cause of the sterility of this exercise thus far. The unvarnished reality is that the United Nations can function and reform itself only on the basis of a realistic assessment of power.

Any Security Council reform must begin with a minimum agreement among the current permanent members and other States and must continue democratically with a broad dialogue among all States. That is the correct political methodology. We must at least begin with a minimum formula without the possibility of the veto. If we are realistic, we cannot expect that new permanent Security Council members will simply be elected by the General Assembly without a prior minimum agreement among the current permanent Council members. To fail to do that would be to ignore the political realism that demands a reform process that will affect the distribution of world power.

That said, we must state very clearly that Peru supports Security Council reform. However, my delegation criticizes the unrealistic methodology being used; we favour Council expansion through a broad consensus. In that connection, we support Brazil — among other States — as a permanent member.

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The best way to reform the Security Council is to make it effective in combating crimes against humanity. Nothing discredits the Security Council more than inertia in the face of ethnic cleansing, massive human rights violations and genocide, such as in the current case of Darfur. The Council can have more permanent and non-permanent members, and it can be, as we say, more representative; but if it does not address crimes against humanity, Council reform will be useless.

If we are to improve the Security Council's functioning in combating crimes against humanity, the five permanent Council members must reach a gentlemen's agreement never to use the veto when the Secretary-General or regional organizations request Council action to prevent or avoid crimes against humanity, massive human rights violations, genocide or ethnic cleansing. The idea is that the permanent Council members should cooperate to save thousands of human lives.

The Security Council should not only continue to put out fires when there are civil conflicts; it should also analyse in depth the structural, economic and social causes that give rise to such conflicts. In fact, all developing countries that have collapsed in civil wars and that are currently on the Council's agenda have one thing in common: all of them have virtually non-viable national economies. For example, in all of these countries, the gross national product is nearly static or growing less than the population — particularly the urban population, which, in many of them, is growing at the incredible rate of 3 per cent per year. Thus, personal incomes are declining.

In all of these countries, nearly 70 per cent of the population lives on $2 a day. The countries export very low-technology products that do not have a competitive advantage in the global economy. Furthermore, they have no food security, and there are millions of starving people; more than 60 per cent of the people in some of these countries are malnourished.

This economic non-viability undoubtedly exacerbates social exclusion. That in turn worsens cultural, ethnic and religious rivalries, turning them into terrible civil wars of national depredation in which the most execrable crimes against humanity are committed. If the Council does not take into account the non-viability of the national economies of these countries, it cannot prevent or resolve civil conflicts, because it would be ignoring the most important structural variable of the current global violence.

A recent World Bank study shows that many national reconstruction processes collapse in the first five years. The truth is that, as the High Commissioner for Refugees has said, the international community has not yet been able to effectively manage peace transition, conflict prevention and post-conflict processes because it has not placed sufficient importance on major economic and social problems. My delegation agrees with the World Bank and the High Commissioner for Refugees. We have insisted repeatedly in the Council that, if we are to make peace transition and post-conflict reconstruction processes effective, we must address social and economic

problems, which can best be accomplished by the Peacebuilding Commission. Therefore, it is essential that Security Council peacekeeping operations be accompanied by economic policies aimed at providing political and economic viability and stability so as not to run the risk of falling back into conflict.

The Security Council has always placed more — nearly exclusive — importance on political problems than on economic and social problems. In particular, we have placed importance on elections, the reform of State security structures and the creation of new armed forces and police forces. Many of the Governments resulting from elections are very fragile democracies supported by non-viable national economies. They cannot provide basic public services and, sooner or later, they collapse politically. For the same reasons, the armed forces and police forces that the Council creates end up making social demands, thus fundamentally threatening those fragile democracies.

A Security Council approach to national reconstruction that focuses exclusively on political problems and the modernization of security structures — as opposed to the modernization of the economy and social services — will not only continue to fail, but could later destabilize the weak democratic Governments that have emerged with the Council's help. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that Security Council reform ensure that Council action is oriented towards alerting and mobilizing the international community and the international financial institutions with regard to the persistence of these non-viable national economies so as to prevent civil conflict and avoid failure in cases of post-conflict national reconstruction.

**Mr. Soborun** (Mauritius): Allow me at the outset to express my sincere appreciation that the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council has been brought before the General Assembly.

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made earlier this morning by Mr. Youcef Yousfi, Permanent Representative of Algeria, on behalf on the African Group.

We meet today to address once again a very important question, which is close to the hearts of Member States and to the hearts of millions of people around the world. One cannot say when we will have reached the limits of the deliberations on this question. However, suffice it to say that the wide spectrum of views expressed so far on this subject provide us with compelling reasons justifying the urgent need for reform of the Security Council. We cannot afford to continue to acknowledge a status quo situation year after year. The momentum of the process of Security Council reform should be sustained so as not to further delay the implementation of the decisions taken by our leaders at the 2000 and 2005 summits.

It is interesting to note that every time an opportunity is provided us, we do not fail to remind ourselves that we are living in a globalized world and that we need to adapt to changing circumstances, sometimes at very high cost to vulnerable groups. However, when it comes to the reform of the Security Council, established 60 years ago, we fail to apply the same logic, the same approach and the same philosophy.

Need we remind ourselves once again that, in 1945, more than half of the world's people were colonized and, as such, their countries had no power to help shape the structure of our Organization. To date, almost all those countries have emerged as sovereign States and a few have become important players on the world stage and are contributing immensely to its advancement. A couple of them are even poised to rank among the 10 strongest economies of the world in the next 10 to 15 years. Therefore, as in other forums, those voices need to be heard loud and clear in the Security Council as well, with a view to enhancing its effectiveness and the legitimacy of its decisions.

The reform of the Security Council is intertwined and interlinked with other reforms in the United Nations. However, it is my delegation's view that the reform of the other organs of the United Nations system, however good, will not achieve the desired results so long as significant changes are not made in the structure and working methods of the Security Council in a comprehensive manner.

We are witnessing an ever-increasing adoption of democratic principles all over the world, and particularly in areas where the freedoms of speech, expression and association were hitherto unheard of. That is good for the peoples of those countries, as well as for the countries themselves. In the same vein, it is imperative that the Security Council open its select club of permanent members to accommodate the legitimate claims and aspirations of an ever-changing

world to better reflect geopolitical realities and diversity, balance of power and global stability. Above all, that is what the United Nations is all about.

By delaying too long in reaching a decision on a meaningful reform of the Security Council, we run the risk of creating among the Member States a reform pessimism which, at the end of the day, could have damaging results. My delegation remains convinced that, particularly over the past 15 years, Member States have expressed sufficient views on the reform of the Security Council. It is therefore high time that we seriously consider bringing a fruitful conclusion to the debate in the wider interest of the international community.

Let us step back for a minute and ask ourselves the question: How long shall we continue to deny almost 3 billion people of the world a fair and just representation on a permanent basis in the Security Council? More importantly, why should they be denied?

It is unjust and unacceptable that Africa should continue to be denied its logical claim to permanent seats. Africa is the only continent not represented in the permanent membership of the Security Council. Furthermore, the demand of Latin America in that regard is just as fully justified. Moreover, by any criteria that may be applied, India, the largest democracy on our planet, more than deserves a permanent seat in the Security Council.

To conclude, I wish to reiterate that it is my delegation's wish that Member States and all regional groups should earnestly strive to reach a consensus on Security Council reform in order to make progress and move the process forward.

**Organization of work**

**The Acting President** (*spoke in French*): I should like to make an announcement with regard to the Bureau of the General Assembly at its sixty-first regular session.

Members will recall that the President and the 21 Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly at its sixty-first regular session, as well as the Chairman of the Fourth Committee — the Special Political and Decolonization Committee — and the Chairmen of the Second, Third, and Sixth Committees, of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session were elected on 8 June 2006.

It remained for us to elect, at a later date, the Chairmen of the First and Fifth Committees. I should like to inform the Assembly that the following representatives have been elected to the posts of Chairpersons of the First and Fifth Committees of the General Assembly at its sixty-first regular session and are therefore members of the Bureau for the current session: for the First Committee, Mrs. Mona Juul of Norway; and for the Fifth Committee, Mr. Youcef Yousfi of Algeria.

I congratulate the Chairpersons of the First and the Fifth Committees of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on their election.

As the Chairpersons of the six Main Committees and the 21 Vice-Chairmen of the General Assembly at its sixty-first regular session have been elected, the Bureau of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session is therefore duly constituted, in conformity with article 38 of the rules of procedure.

*The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.*